

Committees:

Finance and Appropriations, Ranking Member  
Agriculture and Rural Development  
Ways and Means

Member of the State Controlling Board



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JOINT SPONSOR TESTIMONY - H.B. 143  
HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE – RM 116  
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2019

Chairman Schaffer, Vice Chair Lipps, Ranking Members Rogers and colleagues on the House Ways and Means Committee ----

The number of individuals signing up to volunteer has been on a steady decline for some time. Factors in the decline can include: Requirements to become a firefighter, perhaps a longer commute to their paying jobs due to economic conditions, and costs involved in certifications.

For example, the men and women who volunteer on the VFD's throughout the state also hold full-time, paying jobs in order to provide for their own families. In my area, these individuals may be called to an early morning fire at 3 a.m., work continuously to save lives and property for 3-4 hours, and then go home, take showers and head to their own full-time jobs in which they earn an income.

All individuals stepping up to serve must successfully complete the appropriate training through one of our state's chartered fire training programs. I bring this to your attention, because more and more VFDs are struggling to find volunteers because of the commitment involved. The service that volunteers provide is invaluable to their communities. The tax credit set forth in H.B. 143 offers an incentive to become a fire fighter and encourages a commitment to that tradition.

Thank you.