

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Authors:** Hilty

**Subject:** Establishing a fire and ambulance special taxing district; Cloquet and Perch Lake Township

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### Overview

H.F. 1426 establishes a fire and ambulance special taxing district in the City of Cloquet and Perch Lake Township. Authorizes a property tax levy for the amount sufficient to fund the operating expenses and debt payments. Allows the district to impose other fees and charges for certain services provided and to incur debt. Requires local approval by the city and township.

#### Section

#### **1 Fire and Ambulance Special Taxing.**

**Subd. 1. Agreement.** Provides that the city of Cloquet and Perch Lake Township, by resolution of their city council and town board, may establish the Cloquet Area Fire and Ambulance taxing district for cooperative fire and ambulance services. Requires the city and town to make payments to that district which will be providing the ambulance and fire services to the city and town. Also allows the district to impose a tax on service provided in cities and townships not part of the district for service that is mandated by the state through the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board to recover all of the costs associated of service to those communities not a member of the district. Allows other contiguous towns or cities to join the district with the agreement of the cities and towns that comprise the district at the time of its application to join.

**Subd. 2. Board.** Provides that the board shall consist of at least one elected official of the governing body of each member community of the district, which at the time of joining the district, the community was providing fire or ambulance service, or both, to its residents.

**Subd. 3. Tax.** Allows the district to impose a property tax on all real and personal property in the district and to those cities and towns receiving service from the

district. Does not set a tax rate, but rather provides that the tax shall be in an amount sufficient to discharge its operating expenses and debt payable in each year. Requires the applicable county auditors to collect the tax and pay it to the special taxing district. Also allows the district to impose other fees or charges as allowed under statute for the fire and ambulance services provided.

**Subd. 4. Public indebtedness.** Provides that the district may incur debt in the manner allowed municipalities under chapter 475, when necessary to accomplish its duties.

**Subd. Withdrawal.** Provides that notice of intent to withdraw from participation in the district may be given only in January, with twelve months notice of intent to withdraw. Continuing obligations after withdrawal may be developed by the members.

Provides that this section is effective after local approval from both the city of Cloquet and Perch Lake Township.