

**Subject** Fire protection districts authorized

**Authors** Cantrell and others

**Analyst** Jared Swanson  
Deborah A. Dyson

**Date** February 19, 2019

## Overview

This bill allows cities and towns to form special taxing districts for fire protection services.

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<p><b>Special taxing districts.</b></p> <p>Conforming amendment to add fire protection districts created under section 2 to the list of special taxing districts authorized in law.</p>
2	<p><b>Fire protection districts.</b></p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Agreement.</b> Permits two or more cities or towns to establish a fire protection district by resolution of the respective governing bodies. Requires the agreement to describe the territory to be included and grants the district all the powers of cities or towns that relate to fire protection. Provides for expansion of the district by agreement of the members.</p> <p><b>Subd. 2. Board.</b> Directs each governing body to appoint a person to the district board and allows the appointee to be a member of the city council or town board. Provides for staggered two-year terms.</p> <p><b>Subd. 3. Tax.</b> Permits the district to impose a property tax to pay the district's operating and debt costs. Excludes the tax from calculation of levies or any levy limits (there are none at this time). Prohibits a member local government from levying for fire protection purposes in the district. Permits the district to impose fees as allowed under other law.</p> <p>Permits a district to issue short term debt for equipment, subject to debt limits. Provides for a reverse referendum on debt over a certain amount.</p> <p><b>Subd. 4. Indebtedness.</b> Permits the district to incur debt under the statute that governs municipal bonding. This includes a referendum requirement.</p> <p><b>Subd. 5. Withdrawal.</b> Allows notice of the intent to withdraw from the district only in January and requires it be made 12 months in advance. Allows the district</p>

Section	Description
	members to develop an agreement on how to handle obligations after withdrawal.



**MN HOUSE  
RESEARCH**

*Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.*

[www.house.mn/hrd](http://www.house.mn/hrd) | 651-296-6753 | 600 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155