



Under HB 95 HCS 1, when a new volunteer fire department created and merged within the territory of an existing fire department, the newly created volunteer fire district would receive one share of aid at the next disbursal date and the parent fire department's aid will be reduced by one share for the twenty years subsequent to the merger. Currently, the share reduction is one year.

**The fiscal impact of HB 95 HCS 1 on local fire districts and counties is indeterminable.**

HB 95 HCS 1 provides for the adoption of an alternative trustee board structure. Upon adoption of the alternative trustee board structure, the board will consist of seven member: one appointed by the county judge/executive or executive head of a merged government; two elected by firefighters, and four shall be property owners who reside in the district elected by the property owners of the districts. The terms shall be staggered. Procedures for the removal of an elected firefighter trustee are provided. The election for the board will be held annually on the fourth Saturday of June between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and located at the principal fire house in the district. Procedures are provided regarding notification of the election. The board will elect a chairman, secretary, and treasurer whom shall give bond.

HB 95 HCS 1 details tax rate provisions for districts and subdistricts. Initially, the board shall keep the tax rates in place immediately prior to adoption. The tax will be used for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of the fire department or to make contracts for protection for the districts, emergency ambulance services, and if certified as being needed, supplemental emergency medical services including EMR, EMT, EMT-A, and paramedic services. The district may request the Department of Local government calculate the compensating rate and the rate that would produce 4% above the compensating rate

The property valuation administrator shall update the tax rolls with the taxpayers' and valuation of the property subject to the new assessment and the county clerk shall certify the tax on the regular state and county tax bills. Any expenses should be easily absorbed.

KRS 75.040 (4) entitles the sheriff of the county to a fee of one percent of the amount of property taxes collected by him. Whereas the same property within the merged districts would be taxed at a higher rate, this would result in increased fee revenue for the Sheriff's Office.

**Part III: Differences to Local Government Mandate Statement from Prior Versions**

HB 95 HCS 1 made the following changes to HB 95 as introduced:

- Removes the language regarding the change in the two rates which can be levied by a fire district or subdistrict.
- Provides for the adoption of an alternative trustee board structure.
- Provides compensating tax rate provisions.
- Adds language regarding merged fire districts; treatment of the funding received from the Commission of Fire Protection Personnel Standards and Education.
- “Fire District” is defined.

**Data Source(s):** LRC Staff

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