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HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE - HSC

DIVISION 12. FIRES AND FIRE PROTECTION [13000 - 14959] (*Division 12 enacted by Stats. 1939, Ch. 60.)*

PART 2.7. FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT LAW OF 1987 [13800 - 13970] (*Heading of Part 2.7 renumbered from Part 3 (as added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1013) by Stats. 1989, Ch. 1360, Sec. 91.)*

CHAPTER 5. General Powers and Duties [13860 - 13879] (*Chapter 5 added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1013, Sec. 11.)*

13860. A district has perpetual succession.

(*Repealed and added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1013, Sec. 11.*)

13861. A district shall have and may exercise all rights and powers, expressed or implied, necessary to carry out the purposes and intent of this part, including, but not limited to, the following powers:

- (a) To sue and be sued.
 - (b) To acquire any property, including water facilities for providing fire protection, within the district by any means, to hold, manage, occupy, dispose of, convey and encumber the property, and to create a leasehold interest in the property for the benefit of the district.
 - (c) To acquire by eminent domain any property necessary to carry out any of its powers or functions.
 - (d) To appoint necessary employees, to define their qualifications and duties, and to provide a pay schedule for performance of their duties.
 - (e) To employ counsel.
 - (f) To enter into and perform all necessary contracts pursuant to Article 53 (commencing with Section 20810) of Part 3 of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code.
 - (g) To adopt a seal and alter it at pleasure.
 - (h) To adopt ordinances following the procedures of Article 7 (commencing with Section 25120) of Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 2 of Title 3 of the Government Code.
 - (i) To establish and enforce rules and regulations for the administration, operation, and maintenance of the services listed in Section 13862.
 - (j) To enter joint powers agreements pursuant to Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code.
 - (k) To provide insurance pursuant to Part 6 (commencing with Section 989) of Division 3.6 of Title 1 of the Government Code.
- (*Amended by Stats. 1988, Ch. 465, Sec. 7. Effective August 22, 1988.*)

13862. A district shall have the power to provide the following services:

- (a) Fire protection services.
- (b) Rescue services.
- (c) Emergency medical services.
- (d) Hazardous material emergency response services.
- (e) Ambulance services, pursuant to Division 2.5 (commencing with Section 1797).
- (f) Any other services relating to the protection of lives and property.

(*Repealed and added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1013, Sec. 11.*)

13863. (a) A district may enter into mutual aid agreements with any federal or state agency, any city, county, city and county, special district, or federally recognized Indian tribe.

(b) A district may also enter into mutual aid agreements with any private firm, corporation, or federally recognized Indian tribe that maintains a full-time fire department. The firm, corporation, or federally recognized Indian tribe, or any of its employees, shall have the same immunity from liability for civil damages on account of personal injury to or death of any person or damage to property resulting from acts or omissions of its fire department personnel in the performance of the provisions of the mutual aid agreement as is provided by law for the district and its employees, except when the act or omission occurs on property under the control of the firm, corporation, or federally recognized Indian tribe.

(Amended by Stats. 1998, Ch. 17, Sec. 1. Effective April 14, 1998.)

13864. A district may lease or rent any property from an employee, including but not limited to, vehicles or equipment.

(Repealed and added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1013, Sec. 11.)

13865. A district may join any local, state, or national group or association which promotes the preservation of life and property from the hazards of fire and other disasters.

(Repealed and added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1013, Sec. 11.)

13866. A district may authorize its directors and employees to attend professional or vocational meetings and pay their actual and necessary traveling and incidental expenses while on official business. Reimbursement for these expenses is subject to Sections 53232.2 and 53232.3 of the Government Code.

(Amended by Stats. 2005, Ch. 700, Sec. 15. Effective January 1, 2006.)

13867. The acquisition of any equipment for fire protection purposes shall conform to the standardization provisions of Article 1 (commencing with Section 13025) of Chapter 2 of Part 1.

(Repealed and added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1013, Sec. 11.)

13868. (a) A district board shall keep a record of all its acts, including its financial transactions.

(b) A district may destroy a record pursuant to Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 60200) of Division 1 of Title 6 of the Government Code.

(Amended by Stats. 2005, Ch. 158, Sec. 24. Effective January 1, 2006.)

13869. A district may adopt a fire prevention code by reference pursuant to Article 2 (commencing with Section 50022) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 1 of Title 5 of the Government Code. For that purpose, the district board shall be deemed a legislative body and the district shall be deemed a local agency.

(Repealed and added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1013, Sec. 11.)

13869.7. (a) Any fire protection district organized pursuant to Part 2.7 (commencing with Section 13800) of Division 12 may adopt building standards relating to fire and panic safety that are more stringent than those building standards adopted by the State Fire Marshal and contained in the California Building Standards Code. For these purposes, the district board shall be deemed a legislative body and the district shall be deemed a local agency. Any changes or modifications that are more stringent than the requirements published in the California Building Standards Code relating to fire and panic safety shall be subject to subdivision (b) of Section 18941.5.

(b) Any fire protection district that proposes to adopt an ordinance pursuant to this section shall, not less than 30 days prior to noticing a proposed ordinance for public hearing, provide a copy of that ordinance, together with the adopted findings made pursuant to subdivision (a), to the city, county, or city and county where the ordinance will apply. The city, county, or city and county, may provide the district with written comments, which shall become part of the fire protection district's public hearing record.

(c) The fire protection district shall transmit the adopted ordinance to the city, county, or city and county where the ordinance will apply. The legislative body of the city, county, or city and county, may ratify, modify, or deny an adopted ordinance and transmit its determination to the district within 15 days of the determination. Any modification or denial of an adopted ordinance shall include a written statement describing the reasons for any modifications or denial. No ordinance adopted by the district shall be effective until ratification by the city, county, or city and county where the ordinance will apply. Upon ratification of an adopted ordinance, the city, county, or city and county, shall file a copy of the findings of the district, and any findings of the city, county, or city and county, together with the adopted ordinance expressly marked and identified to which each finding refers, with the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(d) Nothing in this section shall authorize a district to mandate, nor prohibit a district from mandating, the installation of residential fire sprinkler systems within newly constructed dwelling units or in new additions to existing dwelling units, including, but not limited to, manufactured homes as defined in Section 18007.

(e) Nothing in this section shall authorize a district to mandate, nor prohibit a district from mandating, the retrofitting of existing dwelling units for the installation of residential fire sprinkler systems, including, but not limited to, manufactured homes as defined in Section 18007.

(f) Nothing in this section shall apply in any manner to litigation filed prior to January 1, 1991, regarding an ordinance or regulation which mandates the installation of residential fire sprinkler systems within newly constructed dwelling units or in new additions to existing dwelling units.

(g) This section shall not apply to fire and panic safety requirements for the public schools adopted by the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Section 13143.

(h) (1) A city, county, or city and county that ratifies an ordinance relating to fire and panic safety pursuant to this section shall delegate the enforcement of the ordinance to either of the following:

(A) The chief of the fire protection district that adopted the ordinance, or his or her authorized representative.

(B) The chief building official of the city, county, or city and county, or his or her authorized representative.

(2) Any fee charged pursuant to the enforcement authority of this subdivision shall not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged, pursuant to Section 66014 of the Government Code.

(Amended by Stats. 1993, Ch. 906, Sec. 13. Effective October 8, 1993. Operative January 1, 1994, by Sec. 24 of Ch. 906.)

13870. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a district board or its authorized representative may issue a written order to correct or eliminate a fire hazard or life hazard.

(b) Any person who has been ordered to immediately correct or eliminate a fire hazard or life hazard pursuant to subdivision (a) and who believes that strict compliance with the order would cause undue hardship may, within 10 days, present a written request to the district board requesting a hearing on and a review of the order. The request shall state the reasons for making the request.

(c) Within 30 days of the receipt of a written request pursuant to subdivision (b), the district board or its authorized representative shall hold a hearing. The board may modify, vacate, or affirm the order.

(Repealed and added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1013, Sec. 11.)

13871. (a) Any citation issued by a district for violation of a fire prevention code or a district ordinance may be processed pursuant to subdivision (d) of Section 17 of the Penal Code.

(b) Every person who fails or refuses to correct or eliminate a fire or life hazard after written order of a district board or its authorized representative is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(c) Every person who falsely personates a member of a district board or an officer or employee of a district is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(d) Every misdemeanor is punishable pursuant to Section 19 of the Penal Code.

(Repealed and added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1013, Sec. 11.)

13872. A district may, by ordinance, authorize its fire chief, or his or her duly authorized representative, to issue citations for the misdemeanors specified in Section 13871. The provisions of Chapter 5C (commencing with Section 853.5) of Title 4 of Part 2 of the Penal Code shall apply.

(Amended by Stats. 2001, Ch. 176, Sec. 40. Effective January 1, 2002.)

13872.5. The fire chief of a city, city and county, or county fire department, or his or her authorized representative, has the same authority as specified in Sections 13870 to 13872, inclusive, to issue a written order to correct or eliminate a fire hazard or life hazard, hold hearings and modify, vacate, or affirm those orders, and issue citations if so authorized by ordinance of the city, city and county, or county. This section does not limit or affect any authority of a fire chief or authorized representative of a fire chief under any local ordinance.

(Added by Stats. 1988, Ch. 1589, Sec. 3.)

13873. Employees of a district shall have the powers of peace officers while engaged in the prevention and suppression of fires and the protection and preservation of life and property, including, but not limited to, actions associated with rescue services, emergency medical services, hazardous material emergency response services, and ambulance services.

(Repealed and added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1013, Sec. 11.)

13874. If a district board has adopted regulations for the control of open fires, no person shall burn any material without a permit. A district shall not issue a permit to burn any material which would not be permitted by an air pollution control district or an air quality management district, or any other state or federal agency.

(Repealed and added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1013, Sec. 11.)

13875. A district may prepare and disseminate information and operate educational programs, including, but not limited to, those which help to prevent fire, eliminate life hazards, and prepare for medical emergencies.

(Repealed and added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1013, Sec. 11.)

13876. A district board may adopt a resolution to change the name of the district. The resolution shall comply with the requirements of Chapter 23 (commencing with Section 7530) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code. Within 10 days of its adoption, the district board shall file a copy of the resolution with the county clerk, and the board of supervisors and the local agency formation commission of each county in which the district is located.

(Amended by Stats. 1998, Ch. 829, Sec. 40. Effective January 1, 1999.)

13877. A district board may authorize the use of any vehicle, apparatus, or equipment outside the district, subject to any terms and conditions it prescribes.

(Repealed and added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1013, Sec. 11.)

13878. A district may contract with any person or public agency to provide district services to territory which is outside the district. A contract shall provide for payment in advance.

(Repealed and added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1013, Sec. 11.)

13879. A district board may abate hazardous weeds and rubbish pursuant to Part 5 (commencing with Section 14875). For that purpose, the district board shall be deemed to be a "board of supervisors" and district employees shall be deemed to be the "persons" designated by Section 14890.

(Repealed and added by Stats. 1987, Ch. 1013, Sec. 11.)