

Bill Summary
1st Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 164
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Author:	Sen. Pederson
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Committee Substitute (CS)

The CS for SB 164 authorizes a board of directors in a fire protection district to increase its total size to seven or nine members. The board may be increased if the board receives a petition signed by 51% of the eligible members of the district. Additionally, the measure states that members' terms shall be staggered so that no more than two terms expire per year.

SB 164 further requires fire protection district with more than two full-time paid firefighters to also have one full-time fire chief. The fire chief must possess at least three years' experience as a paid firefighter or five years' experience as a volunteer firefighter chief with that particular department. The board of a fire protection district may add additional requirements for the position of fire chief. Fire chiefs will be responsible for the general condition of the district, as well as other duties, and will file appropriate activity reports to the State Fire Marshal in Oklahoma City on an annual basis. The measure also provides for positions to assist the chief and company officers.

Under this measure, fire protection district may also include adjacent territory in another county within the district, provided the district's directors receives written consent from at least 25% of the holders of title to the territory sought to be included. The board of directors and board of county commissioners from each county must approve the expansion. Upon receiving permission from 25% of the holders, the board of directors, and board of county commissioners in all affected counties and territories, the district may organize an election to determine whether the territory is incorporated. Individual landowners may also opt in to the district.

The measure requires municipalities that annex a portion of the fire protection district to meet or exceed the current levels and standards of fire protection services provided by the district, receive permission via a vote of 51% of the those affected by the annexation, pay for the costs associated with the vote, notify the affected fire protection district and the board of the county commissioners, and assume a portion of the debt incurred by the district.

SB 164 authorizes the board of a fire protection district to choose to have a fiscal year which that begins on January 1 and ends on December 31.

Prepared by: Kalen Taylor