

SCS SB 202 -- FIRE PROTECTION

SPONSOR: Childers (Wood)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass by consent" by the Committee on Local Government by a vote of 16 to 0.

This substitute requires all water corporations, municipal water districts, and public water supply districts to allow access to water supplies for filling mobile equipment by any fire protection service during an emergency. Access must be allowed regardless of any nonpayment of fees. Connection of pumping equipment to water lines must be authorized by the governing body of the water supplier. The use of hard suction connections to obtain water is prohibited. Within 15 days following the use of water in an emergency situation, the fire protection service must provide the governing body of the source of water an estimated amount of water utilized. A fire protection service may not deplete a water supply to a pressure less than the minimum pounds per square inch as required by law or regulation. Personnel working for a fire protection service must have adequate training on the basics of water system supply and proper maintenance and operation of valves and hydrants. A fire protection service is liable for any damages caused by it to any part of the water supply system from which water is taken.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the substitute protects communities by making sure that they have sufficient water pressure. The substitute is a matter of safety. Some water companies deny water to fire districts.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Childers.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Steve Bauer, Legislative Analyst