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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/16/07

SPONSOR Leavelle LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE PRC Fire Marshal Division SB 732

ANALYST Earnest

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
NFI	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates House Bill 622

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 732 elevates the fire marshal's bureau within the Insurance Division to a division under the Public Regulation Commission (PRC). The bill also eliminates the requirement that the State Fire Marshal and Deputy State Fire Marshals be experienced in fire prevention and fire fighting and have completed training at a fire-training school.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO) and State Firefighting Academy (SFFA) are funded through insurance premiums transferred from the insurance suspense fund to the fire protection fund. The Legislature appropriates the budget of SFMO and SFFA under the Public Safety Program of the PRC. This bill better aligns statute to the operating structure of the PRC.

DFA notes that the State Fire Marshal position is currently classified as a bureau chief and would be elevated to a division director if HB 622 is adopted. The State Fire Marshal is an exempt employee now and would stay an exempt employee now. The Deputy State Fire Marshal is currently a classified employee and would remain a classified employee. All other duties and responsibilities of the Insurance Division would remain the same.

The bill removes a statutory requirement that the Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshals be experienced fire fighters.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Under this bill, the State Fire Marshal would report directly to the Chief of Staff and PRC.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The State Fire Marshal's Office will remain a bureau of the Insurance Division and the State Fire Marshal will be still required to be an experienced fire fighter.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 732 duplicates House Bill 622.

BE/mt