HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Ozment and others

Subject: Reimbursement for vehicle fires on highway right-of-way

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Overview

Provides additional means for municipal or volunteer fire departments to be reimbursed for putting out a car fire on a trunk highway or interstate right-of-way.

Section

1 **Reimbursement for fire services.** Requires the commissioner of transportation to reimburse a municipal or volunteer fire department for ordinary expenses incurred in extinguishing a motor vehicle fire within a trunk highway or interstate right-of-way if the fire department is not reimbursed by insurance, collected from the recipient of the service under section 3 of the bill, or some other means available, such as bringing a lawsuit. Permits reimbursement of up to $300 per fire call.

2 **Collection of emergency service charges.** Allows towns to collect unpaid emergency service charges from delinquent recipients of such services by certifying them to the county auditor, without regard to whether the delinquent recipients are property owners.

3 **Collection of unpaid service charges.** Expands the authority of a town to seek reimbursement for services it has provided. Permits a town that has not been paid for a service to collect the unpaid amount as a levy against any real property owned by the recipient, not only on property within the town. Allows the town to certify the amount due to the county auditor of the county in which the recipient owns real property and for the county auditor to remit the amount to the town. Limits the amount collected under this section for fire services for motor vehicle fires to $300 per fire call, but allows a town to recover any additional expenses by other means, such as bringing a lawsuit.

4 **Appropriation.** Appropriates an unspecified amount from the general fund to the commissioner of transportation for section 1 for the biennium.