

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD
6157 COUNTY HIGHWAY P
DANE, WI 53529

Sherri Endres, Clerk

Telephone: (608) 849-7887

April 28, 1997

Rep. John Dobyms, Chair
Committee on Government Operations
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative John Dobyms,

I am writing on behalf of the Town Board of the Town of Springfield in support of AB263, which has a public hearing date of May 7, 1997. We are appreciative to Rep. Travis for supporting this bill at our request.

With USH 12 running directly through our town, we are constantly being billed for fire calls involving vehicle accidents. Since the parties involved are almost always commuters, collecting from the private parties becomes almost impossible. By the time information is available to me for billing, the party has no forwarding address, no insurance, etc. and the town taxpayers are stuck footing the bill. It is the opinion of the Town that we should not be asked to be responsible for such costs.

It is the policy of the fire department that a fire truck respond in every accident. The Town has no control over this policy. Whenever we try to apply for assistance the State refuses us if the fire truck was not utilized and was there on a stand by basis only. Safety of course needs to be the ultimate concern on this already treacherous stretch of state highway, but the Town does not feel it should be solely responsible for these expenses.

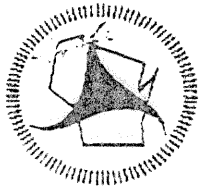
The Town would sincerely appreciate your support of AB263. Thank you for your consideration and should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sherri Endres

Sherri Endres, Clerk

cc: Rep. David Travis



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Tommy G. Thompson
GovernorRonald R. Fiedler, PE
Secretary

TO: ALL MUNICIPALITIES

FROM: WIS. DEPT. OF TRANSP.
BUREAU OF ACCOUNTING & AUDITING
P.O. BOX 7366
MADISON, WI. 53707

SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION OF THE ELIGIBILITY
FOR PAYMENT OF FIRE CALLS

A "FIRE CALL" IS INTERPRETED TO MEAN FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT RESPONDING AND EXTINGUISHING OR ATTEMPTING TO EXTINGUISH A FIRE. FOR THE PRESENT TIME WE WILL APPROVE FIRE CALL CLAIMS WHERE GASOLINE IS FLUSHED OFF THE HIGHWAY OR EXTRICATION EQUIPMENT IS USED. WE WILL NOT APPROVE CLAIMS WHERE EQUIPMENT IS CALLED OUT TO "STAND BY" ONLY.

FILE ALL FUTURE CLAIMS ON THE NEW FORM BAA81 288 ONLY.

CLAIMS MUST BE FILED BY THE MUNICIPALITY IN WHICH THE FIRE OCCURRED, SIGNED BY THE CLERK. PAYMENT WILL BE MADE TO WHOM THEY SPECIFY.

IN THE FIRST BOX ON THE FORM, CIRCLE OR CHECK THE TYPE OF MUNICIPALITY

LOCATION OF FIRE: GIVE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION SO WE CAN DETERMINE IN WHAT MUNICIPALITY THE FIRE OCCURRED. FIRE MUST HAVE OCCURRED ON A STATE TRUNK HIGHWAY OR A HIGHWAY MAINTAINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

TYPE OF FIRE: IF THERE WAS NO FIRE EXPLAIN WHAT WAS DONE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAYMENT.

NO AUTHORITY IS GIVEN BY THE WISCONSIN STATUTES TO MAKE PAYMENT TO A CITY OR VILLAGE THAT HAS A SALARIED OR PAID FIRE DEPARTMENT.

THE TOWN MUST SUBMIT A WRITTEN STATEMENT THAT IT HAS MADE A "REASONABLE EFFORT" TO COLLECT THE COST FROM THE PERSON TO WHOM THE SERVICE WAS RENDERED. IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE SUCH A STATEMENT, YOU ARE NOT ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT AS STATED IN THE AMENDMENT TO SEC. 60.557(2) WISCONSIN STATUTES.

EVEN THOUGH THE FIRE CLAIM STATUTES FOR VILLAGES AND CITIES DOESN'T SPECIFICALLY STATE THAT THEY ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN STATEMENT THAT A REASONABLE EFFORT WAS MADE TO COLLECT THE COST FROM THE PERSON FOR WHOM THE FIRE CALL WAS PROVIDED, THE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION WOULD EXPECT THE VILLAGE AND/OR CITY REQUESTING REIMBURSEMENT TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO COLLECT FROM THE PERSON WHO WAS PROVIDED WITH THE FIRE CALL SERVICE.

NOTE: AS OF JULY 1, 1994 FIRE
CLAIMS NOT TO EXCEED \$500.00.
FORMS ATTACHED
FILL IN ACTION BY FIRE DEPT.

LOIS WALKER
(608) 267-3142.

CLAIM MUST BE FILED BY THE MUNICIPALITY IN WHICH THE FIRE OCCURRED.

Town Clerk:

Pursuant to Section 60.557(2) Wisconsin Statutes as amended 7-1-94 a fire call claim not exceeding \$500, may be made to the Department of Transportation for a fire occasioned on a state trunk highway or those highways maintained by the Department. The town must submit a written statement that it has made a reasonable effort to collect the cost from the person to whom the service was rendered.

Village or City Clerk:

Pursuant to Section 61.65(8), 62.13(8) Wisconsin Statutes a fire call claim, not exceeding \$500, may be made to the Department of Transportation for a fire occasioned on a state trunk highway or those highways maintained by the Department. Fires which occur on a connecting street in a city or village that receives connecting highway aid are not eligible for reimbursement.

If reimbursement for the fire call has not been made by a company or individual, complete this claim, attest to by signing, and submit to:

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Bureau of Financial Services
P.O. Box 7366
Madison, WI 53707-7366

Only one claim regardless
of the number of vehicles or fires involved

Town, Village, City (Where fire occurred)	County	Date of Claim	Amount of Claim
Name(s) and Address(es) of Owners of Vehicles			Vehicle License No.
			Date of Fire
Vehicle Insured by:			Time of Call
Location of Fire. Be specific. State Highway Number and distance from Village, City or Intersection		Type of Fire. What burned. Cause of Fire-Accident etc.	
Fire Department Servicing Call and Equipment Responding		Check ONE of the following: <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Fire Department <input type="checkbox"/> Salaried Fire Department <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer and Salaried Fire Department	
Action By Fire Department: <input type="checkbox"/> Extinguished Fire <input type="checkbox"/> Gasoline Flushed From Highway <input type="checkbox"/> Extrication Equipment Used		What attempt was made to collect from parties involved?	
Indicate to whom payment shall be made: (Town, Village or City Treasurer)		Cost of Fire to Municipality: (Annual Fee Standard Cost Per Fire, Hourly Rate or Cost of Wages and Supplies.	
Name:			
Address:			

I certify the above claim is true and correct; no portion thereof has been or will be paid by another.

X

(Town, Village or City Clerk)

Must be signed by Clerk or municipality
in which fire occurred or claim will be returned.

1997 Session

LRB or Bill No./Adm. Rule No.

AB 263 (-2176)

Amendment No. if Applicable

FISCAL ESTIMATE

DOA-2048 (R10/92)

- ORIGINAL
- CORRECTED
- UPDATED
- SUPPLEMENTAL

Subject

Relating to state reimbursement of towns for fire calls on state or federal highways

Fiscal Effect

State: No State Fiscal Effect

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation or affects a sum sufficient appropriation

- Increase Existing Appropriation
- Decrease Existing Appropriation
- Create New Appropriation
- Increase Existing Revenues
- Decrease Existing Revenues

Increase Costs - May be possible to Absorb Within Agency's Budget Yes No

Decrease Costs

Local: No local government costs

- 1. Increase Costs
- Permissive Mandatory
- 2. Decrease Costs
- Permissive Mandatory

- 3. Increase Revenues
- Permissive Mandatory
- 4. Decrease Revenues
- Permissive Mandatory

- 5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:
- Towns Villages Cities
- Counties Others
- School Districts VTAE Districts

Fund Sources Affected

- GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEG-S

Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations
20,395 (3)(eg)

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

SEE ATTACHED

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Ongoing costs may increase as the program becomes more visible.

Agency/Prepared by: (Name & Phone No.)

Cathy Meinholz 266-3466
Department of Transportation

Authorized Signature/Telephone No.

Peter Rusk
266-0459

Date

04/24/97

AB/263

Relating to state reimbursement of towns for fire calls on state or federal highways.

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate:

This estimate is based on CY95 statewide data for vehicle and grass fires which showed fire departments responded to 302 grass fires and 334 vehicle fires. This data was obtained from the Department of Commerce, which indicated only 50% of the fire departments report data to them. Knowing this, we have estimated that 1,270 fire call claims could be filed from all fire departments for grass and vehicle fires, reflecting double the 636 fires reported to Commerce in 1995.

The same data showed that fire departments responded to a total of 1,114 fires. Assuming again that this reflects 50% of the actual responses to fires on state highways, approximately 2,230 claims could be filed statewide for any type of fire or incident.

Based upon the department's experience with fire call reimbursements on state trunk and interstate highways, it is estimated that 65% of the statewide total fire call reimbursements are made to towns. Knowing this, we have estimated that under current statutes 825 claims from grass and vehicle fires could be filed from towns. Under AB 263, 1,450 total claims could be filed from towns. This represents a 75% increase in the possible number of claims.

The department receives periodic inquiries regarding our reimbursement policy. Because we do not cover situations where the fire equipment is not actually used under current policy, we have no way of knowing how many claims are not ever formally submitted to the department. We do not have data available to us on the number of claims actually submitted to the department and turned down either. Denied claims are returned to the municipality from which they were filed.

Data on the number of fire calls filed by towns with DOT for FY96 shows 199 claims were paid. The following chart shows the department's experience with fire claims under current law. In FY96 the department paid 308 claims totaling \$115,350.

# of municipalities submitting claims		# of claims	FY96 Actual Reimbursements	Avg Amt of claim	# of municipalities statewide
91	Towns	199	\$ 70,650	\$355	1,266
9	Villages	52	\$ 16,800	\$323	395
6	Cities	57	\$ 27,900	\$489	189
106		308	\$115,350	\$374	1,850

Based on the above assumptions, the amount of additional costs are calculated as follows:

199 * 75% (estimated numbers of claims to be filed)	=	349
349 - 199 (less claims currently processed)	=	150
150 * \$355 (estimated average claim for towns)	=	\$ 53,300

April 22, 1997
u:\wpdata\ab263.wpd

FISCAL ESTIMATE WORKSHEET

1997 SESSION

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect
DCA-2047(R10/92)

ORIGINAL
 CORRECTED

UPDATED
 SUPPLEMENTAL

LRB or Bill No./Adm. Rule No.
AB 263

Amendment No.

Subject

Relating to state reimbursement of towns for fire calls on state or federal highways

I. One-time Costs or Revenue Fluctuations for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):

II. Annualized Costs:

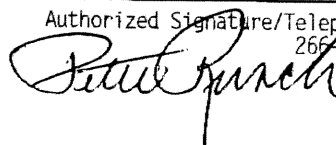
A. State Costs by Category	Annualized Fiscal Impact on State funds from:	
	Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
State Operations-Salaries and Fringes	\$	\$ -
(FTE Position Changes)	(FTE)	(- FTE)
State Operations-Other Costs		-
Local Assistance		-
Aids to Individuals or Organizations		-
TOTAL State Costs by Category	\$	\$ -
B. State Costs by Source of Funds	Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
GPR	\$	\$ -
FED	\$	\$ -
PRO/PRS	\$	\$ -
SEG/SEG-S	\$ 53,300	\$ -
III. State Revenues-	Increased Rev.	Decreased Rev.
GPR Taxes <small>Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fees, etc.)</small>	\$	\$ -
GPR Earned		-
FED		-
PRO/PRS		-
SEG/SEG-S		-
TOTAL State Revenues	\$	\$ -

NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT

	STATE	LOCAL
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	-\$53,300	\$
NET CHANGE IN REVENUES	\$	+\$53,300

Agency/Prepared by: (Name & Phone No.)
Department of Transportation
Cathy Meinholz 266-3466

Authorized Signature/Telephone No.
266-0459



Date
04/24/97