



AGENDA ITEM NO.
C5

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: March 27, 2018

Date: March 22, 2018
To: Board of Supervisors
From: Supervisor Rex Bohn
Subject: AB 2727 (Flora) Regarding Tax Credit to Volunteer Firefighters

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chair to sign the Letter of Support for AB 2727.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: AB 2727 as introduced will provide a tax credit to volunteer firefighters for 80 percent of qualified expenses incurred during the taxable year, up to \$1,500. Often times, volunteer firefighters spend monies out of their own pockets for their safety equipment and training that is required. Passage of AB 2727 will help to reimburse some of these costs and also enhance the ability to recruit new volunteer firefighters and provide an adequate level of service in rural areas

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Bill Text and Letter of Support

Prepared by Kathy Hayes

Signature 

REVIEW:

Auditor _____ County Counsel _____ Personnel _____ Risk Manager _____ Other _____

TYPE OF ITEM:

Consent
 Departmental
 Public Hearing
 Other _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Upon motion of Supervisor Wilson Seconded by Supervisor Bass

Ayes Bass, Fennell, Sundberg, Bohn, Wilson
Nays _____
Abstain _____
Absent _____

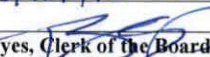
PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. _____

Meeting of: _____

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: 3/27/18

By: 
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 476-2390

March 27, 2018

The Honorable Heath Flora
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 3098
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 2727 - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Flora:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support for Assembly Bill 2727, which provides a personal income tax credit for costs incurred for training and equipment by qualified firefighters. Humboldt County has many rural fire districts, mostly comprised of volunteer firefighters.

Rural fire districts rely heavily upon the volunteer services of members from their communities to provide a critical public service, responding to structure fires and emergency response calls. In addition, these firefighters are often on the first line of defense, along with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, on the devastating wildland fires in their own communities. In some parts of rural California, volunteer firefighters are the only local fire department.

Over the years, the training requirements and equipment for volunteer (and paid personnel) have increased in time and expense. While the fire districts generally provide the minimum training and safety equipment, often these individuals are not reimbursed for travel to the required training and incur expenses on additional training or higher quality safety equipment. It has become increasingly difficult for the rural fire districts to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters.

AB 2727 would provide a personal income tax credit up to 80 percent of the amount incurred by qualified firefighters, not to exceed \$1,500 a year. This is a small recognition that these individuals that put their lives on the line to protect the lives and properties of others within their community deserve to have some of their self-paid costs mitigated with a tax credit.

For these reasons, Humboldt County supports AB 2727. If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact at 707-476-2395.

Sincerely,

Ryan Sundberg, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

RB:kh