

**FORSYTH COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**BRIEFING
DRAFT**

MEETING DATE: APRIL 11, 2019

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 5

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE TO VOTE AGAINST HOUSE BILL 120 IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE COUNTIES' ABILITY TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES IN FORSYTH COUNTY AND ACROSS THE STATE

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

ATTACHMENTS: YES NO

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____
COUNTY MANAGER

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE
TO VOTE AGAINST HOUSE BILL 120 IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE
COUNTIES' ABILITY TO PROVIDE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES IN
FORSYTH COUNTY AND ACROSS THE STATE**

WHEREAS Forsyth County provides fire protection to the unincorporated areas of Forsyth County and the municipalities of Bethania, Clemmons, Lewisville, and Tobaccoville through fire protection districts and service districts;

WHEREAS proceeds from taxes levied on the fire protection districts and service districts support volunteer fire departments across the County;

WHEREAS proceeds from sales taxes associated with the fire protection districts and service districts fund the direct provision by the County of communications, fire inspections, and supplemental firefighters and equipment that serve the entire County;

WHEREAS upon the request of numerous volunteer fire departments in the County last year, a small portion of the proceeds from taxes levied on the fire protection and service districts also support County supplemental firefighters and equipment that serve the entire County;

WHEREAS because it does not serve a compact area and does not serve as the primary firefighting department in a district, Forsyth County is not organized as a fire department that meets the requirements established by the Office of the State Fire Marshal;

WHEREAS the County's provision of supplemental services aids volunteer fire departments by providing resources to large fires and emergencies quickly, and saves taxpayer dollars by more efficiently providing those resources without unnecessary duplication;

WHEREAS the proposed House Bill 120 would prohibit Counties, including Forsyth County, that do not meet the requirements established by the Office of the State Fire Marshal from using proceeds levied and collected from the fire protection districts pursuant to N.C.G.S. 69-25.4; and

WHEREAS the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners is concerned that House Bill 120 would prohibit the County from using proceeds from fire protection districts to provide countywide services, and may prevent the County from providing the communications, inspections, and supplemental services that it has been providing from the proceeds of sales taxes associated with fire protection districts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby requests the North Carolina Legislature to vote against House Bill 120 in order to preserve the Counties' ability to provide fire protection services in Forsyth County and across the State.

Adopted this 11th day of April 2019.