

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1477

By: Adair, Rhodes (Dusty),
Smith (Bill) and
Satterfield of the House

and

Shurden, Bell,
Littlefield and Long
(Ed) of the Senate

An Act relating to rural fire departments; amending 18 O.S. 1991, Section 593, which relates to service fees for rural fire departments; clarifying use of certain services; modifying duties of fire department; providing exception to payment of fee; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 18 O.S. 1991, Section 593, is amended to read as follows:

Section 593. A. Any charitable corporation formed for the purpose of providing either a volunteer or a full-time fire department, pursuant to Section 592 of this title, shall have authority to establish a reasonable schedule of fees to be charged for its services in extinguishing fires of its members and nonmembers who ~~call upon~~ utilize such fire department to extinguish or control a fire either within or without the unincorporated area wherein it is situated. Such schedule of fees may contain one fee for members and another fee for nonmembers, except that no fee shall be established in excess of the approximate cost of providing the service. Any member or nonmember utilizing the services of such a fire department to extinguish or ~~to aid in extinguishing~~ control a fire shall be liable to said corporation in the amount of the established fee. However, no fee shall be charged by a fire department for merely appearing at the scene of a controlled fire unless called by the person setting the fire or at such person's request. If it is necessary for suit to be brought for collection of such amount due, such liability shall include costs of suit and a reasonable attorney's fee.

B. If insurance coverage is provided for the fee specified in subsection A of this section or for the cost of providing the service rendered by the fire department and an insurer makes payment for the service it shall be the duty of the insured party or the responding fire department to notify the insurer of services rendered. The instrument of payment for the services of the fire department shall be made to the order of the responding fire department and the insured.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective September 1, 1993.

Passed the House of Representatives the 18th day of February,

1993.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 15th day of March, 1993.

President of the Senate