

Members of the Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee:

I am writing in support of H.B. No. 5594, An Act Imposing a Surcharge on Certain Personal Risk Insurance Policies to Fund Regional Fire Schools' Operating Budgets and Certain Firefighter Training Costs and Purchases of Fire Equipment.

If passed, this Bill would help to ensure the much needed funding for the State's Regional Fire Schools. As you know, this funding has been "zeroed out" over the past few years. H.B. No. 5594 would establish a dedicated revenue stream to fund these crucial training facilities, and possibly be used as a vehicle to fund certain firefighter training and equipment.

The training that is conducted at the State's Regional Fire facilities helps firefighters operate safely, efficiently and effectively, and is a critical component of the Statewide training system. Please consider voting in favor of H.B. No. 5594. It's passage may be the difference between life and death to a State firefighter, citizen or visitor.

Respectfully,
Chief Jay Kolakoski