



**The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations**



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MEMORANDUM

TO: TACIR Commission Members

FROM: Harry A. Green *Harry*
Executive Director

DATE: December 8, 2011

SUBJECT: Fire Service Funding: Research Plan

If passed, HJR 0204 would have directed TACIR to complete a study focusing on fire service, both paid and volunteer, by local governments. The House passed an amended version of HRJ 0204 which specified that the study cover those areas of the state in which fire service is delivered by all or a majority of volunteers, subscription service, or no fire service. HJR 0204 did not pass in the Senate State and Local Committee. In the June 2011 TACIR Commission meeting, Chairman Norris commented that this topic is worthy of staff time and requested that the study be completed. The Commission concurred.

The following points comprise the basic research plan for this study:

- Brief discussion of the history of fire services in Tennessee
- Fire service operating and funding structures in counties, municipalities, and unincorporated areas
- Review of Tennessee statutes on fire service
- Challenges faced by local jurisdictions in regard to the funding of fire protection
- Case studies of successful funding structures in local jurisdictions
- Examples of fire operation and protection structures in other states

TACIR staff will complete this study in early 2012.