

**FORSYTH COUNTY**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**BRIEFING  
DRAFT**

MEETING DATE: APRIL 11, 2019

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4

**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 11<sup>th</sup> day of April 2019.