

SB-1240

Public Employees' Retirement: Agencies Consolidation



Prepared by the
ELDERLY CARE
EVERYWHERE POLICY
TEAM



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Largest youth lobbying group for senior citizens and senior care in California.

Executive Summary

SB 1240, introduced by Senator Alvarado-Gil, aims to enhance public sector management and operational efficiency in El Dorado County by consolidating fire protection districts. This bill amends Section 20508.3 of the Government Code, impacting the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS). Its primary goal is to integrate the El Dorado County Fire Protection District and the Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Protection District without negatively impacting firefighters' retirement plans or financial stability.

A key aspect of SB 1240 is its focus on employee welfare during organizational changes. The bill ensures that the successor agency offers employees the same defined benefit plans they had before annexation, maintaining their financial and employment stability. This provision helps prevent disruptions and provides security for public safety personnel, ensuring their dedication to their vital roles and fostering a supportive work environment.

Designated as an urgency statute, SB 1240 emphasizes the immediate need for these changes to improve public safety and protect firefighter benefits. The consolidation aims to streamline operations, reduce redundancies, and enhance the effectiveness of fire and emergency response services in El Dorado County, providing immediate benefits to public safety infrastructure and community resilience.

Beyond immediate effects, SB 1240 addresses broader public administration implications, leading to more coordinated and efficient emergency response efforts. This can result in faster response times, better resource allocation, and improved public safety outcomes. The bill serves as a potential model for other regions seeking similar consolidations, balancing employee interests with public safety demands.

SB 1240 is about both immediate improvements and long-term benefits. By ensuring employees retain their retirement benefits and promoting a more efficient fire protection service, the bill supports the future of public service administration. It maintains employee morale and stability while providing high-quality public safety services to the community, fostering a safer environment for all residents and ensuring long-term sustainability.

In conclusion, SB 1240 is a comprehensive and forward-thinking piece of legislation addressing the immediate and long-term needs of public employees and fire protection services in El Dorado County. It underscores the urgency of implementing these changes to enhance public safety and support firefighters effectively, serving as a model for similar efforts elsewhere, and showcasing the benefits of thoughtful legislative action in addressing complex public service challenges.



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Our Position

Senate Bill No. 1240 (SB 1240) addresses the critical need for efficient fire protection and emergency services in El Dorado County. This bill authorizes a successor agency for the El Dorado County Fire Protection District and the Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Protection District to provide employees with the defined benefit plan they received from their respective employer prior to annexation. This move ensures the smooth consolidation of these fire protection districts while maintaining the benefits for firefighters who risk their lives to protect the community.

Elderly Care Everywhere strongly supports SB 1240 as it aligns with our commitment to public safety and ensuring that those who serve our community are adequately protected and compensated. By facilitating the consolidation of fire protection districts, SB 1240 aims to remove redundancies and enhance the efficiency of fire and emergency response services. This act is declared an urgency statute, taking effect immediately to preserve public peace, health, and safety.

Maintaining the defined benefit plans for firefighters is crucial for their well-being and job security, given the inherent risks of their profession. Ensuring these benefits remain intact during the consolidation process demonstrates a commitment to supporting those who safeguard our community.

SB 1240 is vital for El Dorado County due to the unique challenges of consolidating fire protection districts. The legislative findings highlight the necessity of a special statute to address these specific requirements, emphasizing the importance of removing redundancies while continuing to provide effective fire and emergency response services. This approach enhances public safety and preserves firefighters' benefits, recognizing their invaluable contributions to the community.

Moreover, SB 1240 underscores the importance of legislative actions that prioritize public safety and the well-being of first responders. By enacting this bill, the legislature acknowledges the critical role of firefighters in maintaining public peace and safety. This aligns with Elderly Care Everywhere's mission to advocate for the health, welfare, and security of all community members, including those who serve as our first line of defense in emergencies.

In conclusion, SB 1240 is a necessary and timely measure that supports the consolidation of fire protection districts in El Dorado County, ensuring enhanced public safety and the protection of firefighters' benefits. Elderly Care Everywhere fully supports this bill, as it reflects our values of community support, public safety, and the well-being of those who dedicate their lives to protecting others. We urge all legislators to vote in favor of SB 1240 to ensure a safer and more efficient fire protection service in El Dorado County.



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Letter of Support for SB-1240

June 1, 2024

The Honorable Tina McKinnor, Chair
Assembly Committee on Public Employment and Retirement
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 1240

Dear Chair McKinnor and Members of the Assembly Committee on Public Employment and Retirement,

On behalf of Elderly Care Everywhere, I write to express our strong support for SB 1240, which authorizes a successor agency for the El Dorado County Fire Protection District and the Diamond Springs Fire Protection District to provide employees the defined benefit plan or formula that those employees received from their respective employer before the annexation. This bill is crucial for maintaining stability and ensuring the well-being of our firefighters and public safety personnel's well-being during administrative transitions.

California's commitment to the safety and security of its residents is paramount, and SB 1240 aligns with this mission by guaranteeing that those who serve on the front lines, risking their lives for our protection, retain their retirement benefits without disruption. Ensuring that our emergency responders are financially secure is not only a matter of fairness but also a strategic necessity to maintain a motivated and ready workforce. This financial security is particularly important for senior firefighters nearing retirement, who depend on their earned benefits for a stable future.

Furthermore, this bill benefits senior citizens by ensuring the stability and efficiency of emergency services, which are crucial for the safety and well-being of older adults. Seniors are among the most vulnerable populations during emergencies, such as wildfires. Ensuring firefighters are well-supported and their benefits secure means that these first responders can focus on their critical duties without personal financial concerns, providing better service to all community members, including seniors.

We strongly urge you to vote in favor of SB 1240 and support this essential measure for the safety and welfare of our public safety personnel and the communities they serve, particularly our senior citizens who rely heavily on dependable emergency services.

Sincerely,
Aakrisht Mehra
Founder/CEO
Elderly Care Everywhere



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About Elderly Care Everywhere

Elderly Care Everywhere is a transformative nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of senior citizens. Since its inception, the organization has positively impacted over 40,000 seniors through a variety of programs aimed at enhancing their quality of life.

Elderly Care Everywhere has been instrumental in alleviating hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical debt, ensuring that seniors have access to the healthcare they need without the burden of financial stress. With more than 20 chapters across the United States, the organization extends its reach and resources to numerous communities, providing support and advocacy on a national scale.

Beyond U.S. borders, Elderly Care Everywhere has established flood relief camps in India, showcasing its commitment to global humanitarian efforts. The organization's impactful work has been recognized by the government of New Delhi, further highlighting its significant contributions to senior care and welfare. Through these efforts, Elderly Care Everywhere continues to lead the way in senior advocacy, ensuring that the elderly are treated with dignity and respect worldwide.

Thank you for your support of SB-1240. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at connect@elderlycareeverywhere.org