



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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Senator Scott Fitzgerald (608)-266-5660
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Fitzgerald, Jagler Announce Study Committee on Rural Fire Fighters, Emergency Responders

[**Madison, WI**] Senator Scott Fitzgerald and Representative John Jagler announced the recent approval of a Legislative Council Study Committee to examine rural and volunteer fire fighters and emergency response personnel.

The idea for the study arose when the Watertown Fire Department and other local emergency responders approached area legislators to urge the state to examine the changing needs of rural fire departments.

Senator Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) praised the study in a statement:

“Public safety is one of the greatest concerns for Wisconsin legislators. Our conversation with the Watertown emergency responders demonstrated that the current state of understaffed rural fire departments and emergency response personnel is putting our citizens at risk. By assembling a Legislative Council Study we hope to shed some light on potential solutions to this pressing issue.”

Representative John Jagler (R-Watertown) added:

“It is our hope that through this committee we can draw together the expertise of local officials, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and others to produce a set of potential legislative fixes for Wisconsin’s rural public safety shortage.”

The Special Committee will study the relationships between full-time and volunteer fire departments, examine the potential impact that the creation of fire districts may have on fire departments, and consider legislative options to meet the needs of full time and volunteer fire departments. The committee will be comprised of a series of legislative members as well as a group of citizens and representatives of organizations to be named by the Committee Chairs, Senator Nass and Representative Kremer.

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