

AN ACT

**Act No. 99-245 is
The Primary State
Law Governing Fire
Districts**

Relating to Shelby County fire prevention and emergency medical service districts; amending Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 of Act 62 of the 1977 First Special Session (Acts 1977, p. 1483), to provide further for the operation, maintenance, and regulation of fire and emergency medical service districts of Shelby County; to provide further for elections relating to the districts.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of Alabama:

Section 1. This act applies to Shelby County. The Legislature finds and declares that this act is enacted pursuant to its constitutional authority to provide for the creation, incorporation, organization, operation, administration, and financing of local districts for fire fighting and emergency medical services. The Legislature further finds that the organization of fire fighting and emergency medical service districts has served Shelby County well. Although the Legislature desires to amend Act 62 of the 1977 First Special Session, the Legislature finds that any municipality annexing property in Shelby County and any property owner purchasing property or any real estate developer developing property knew or should have known of the operation of Act 62. Considering the forgoing, the Legislature desires at this time, among other provisions of this act, to provide a procedure for the withdrawal of property from a district for fire fighting and emergency medical services upon annexation of the property by a municipality with a municipal fire department.

Section 2. Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 of Act 62 of the 1977 First Special Session (Acts 1977, p. 1483) are amended to read as follows:

“Section 3. Any area situated entirely within the county may be established as a district for fighting fires and for emergency medical services in the manner hereinafter provided for; provided however, no land lying within the boundaries of a municipality or an existing fire fighting and emergency medical services district organized pursuant to this act at the time of the filing of a petition for election shall be included in the district.

A fire district is not necessary for fire protection. A voluntary fire dues program, like the one Vandiver/Sterrett has now, has grown and worked since 1978.

The March 30th election, if not stopped by the people by voting it down through a NO vote, would establish a new government with the ability to place a lien on your home and property, then sell them. With a fire district, the only notice they must give when selling your home is an ad in the paper, which many people never see. People are shocked to find out their house had a lien on it or had already been sold at an auction, and they never had any idea it was even taking place.

It is critical this is voted down on Tuesday, March 30th, 2010. But what if another fire district like Cahaba Valley tries to take over. Well, it can be voted down as well, just like anything else that the people don't want.

The Vandiver/Sterrett Volunteer Fire Department can be successful the way it has been for the last 31 years. As a volunteer department with voluntary dues, the fire department serves you. If the people vote to make it a mandatory district with mandatory taxes, ***you*** will serve ***the district***. A new fire district will forever more need more and more money.