



## **FACT SHEET**

JAY OBERNOLTE  
Assemblyman, 33<sup>rd</sup> District



### **Assembly Bill 288 – Fire Prevention Fee Due Dates**

#### **SUMMARY**

AB 288 would extend the period for paying or disputing a fire prevention fee from 30 days to 60 days from the date of assessment.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The fire prevention fee is assessed annually on owners of habitable structures located on a parcel within a State Responsibility Area (SRA). An SRA generally lies outside city boundaries and federally owned land, which means typical SRA fee payers live in rural areas.

The fee must be paid within 30 days from the date printed on the assessment or a petition for redetermination must be filed within the same timeframe. In rural areas, where many of the fee payers live, 30 days is an inadequate timeframe for fee payers to address the assessment.

#### **PROBLEM**

Despite the efforts of the BOE and CalFire to simplify the fire fee assessments, improve communications with fee payers, and expand education about the petition process, many families still have difficulty paying or contesting a bill in a 30-day timeframe.

Additionally, if the fee payer does not submit the payment or appeal within 30 days, they are subject to penalties and interest in addition to the fee.

#### **SOLUTION**

AB 288 would give fee payers 60 days to pay or dispute the fire prevention fee, rather than the 30 days permitted under current law. This would allow fee payers sufficient time to receive, evaluate, and pay this assessment, which many receive unexpectedly.

#### **SPONSOR**

George Runner, Member, Board of Equalization, 1<sup>st</sup> District

#### **COAUTHORS**

Assemblymembers Aguiar-Curry, Arambula, Bigelow, Gallagher, Lackey, Levine, Mayes, Waldron, and Wood; Senators Dodd, Hill, McGuire, Morrell, Nielsen, Roth, and Wilk

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