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AB 211: FIRE FEE EXPENDITURES

PRINCIPAL COAUTHOR: SENATOR BERRYHILL COAUTHORS: ASSEMBLYMEMBERS OBERNOLTE & PATTERSON

IN BRIEF:

AB 211 would require the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to provide an annual report including itemized accounting of all expenditures of the fire prevention fee to the Legislature indefinitely.

EXISTING LAW:

Existing law requires the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to collect a fire prevention fee in the amount not to exceed \$150 on each habitable structure in a state responsibility area. Existing law requires, until January 31, 2017, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to submit an annual written report to the Legislature on the expenditures of money collected from the fire prevention fee.

THE ISSUE:

It is the Legislature's duty to ensure tax payer dollars are being spent efficiently and that the reporting of those expenditures provides transparency. Currently, the reporting requirements provided by Section 4214 of the Public Resources Code provide an opportunity for vague reporting on the uses of the fire prevention fee. Additionally, those reporting requirements expire this year.

THE SOLUTION:

AB 211 will provide transparency to the public on the use of tax payer dollars. It is essential the Legislature require reporting of public funds to ensure accountability on how the fire prevention fee moneys are spent.

SUPPORT:

Rural County Representatives of California (1/26)

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