



## **SB19-019**

### **County Fireworks Restrictions**

#### **Create Flexibility in County Regulatory Ability to Set Restrictions on Fireworks During Times of High Fire Danger**

**Sponsors: Sen. Fields/Rep. Gray**

By statute, a county may currently prohibit or restrict by ordinance the sale, use, and possession of fireworks for a period that does not exceed one year in length within all or any part of the unincorporated areas of the county; *except* that such an ordinance shall not be in effect between May 31 and July 5 of any year unless the ordinance includes an express finding of high fire danger, based on competent evidence.

SB 19 modifies the statute to specify that such an ordinance may remain in effect for the period between May 31 and July 5 of any year if the county adopts a resolution making an express finding of high fire danger (as opposed to having to put the finding in the ordinance itself), based on competent evidence.

The bill also adds as an additional source of "competent evidence" (that can be used to justify a finding of high fire danger) predictions of future fire danger such as those issued by the national interagency coordination center.

Enacting an ordinance requires statutory notice and a publication requirement and can take 20-30 days to enact. The practical consequence is that a county must move to enact the ordinance banning fireworks a full month BEFORE the month of June without being able to adequately assess how the fire conditions are leading up to this time. In some cases it is possible that conditions might *improve* closer to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and the ban may not be necessary. This bill will give counties more time to better assess these conditions.

SB 19 was referred by the Wildfire Matters Interim Committee and will allow county commissioners to be more flexible and responsive when making the determination on fireworks sales, fire danger and the safety of the public.

**Please Vote YES on SB 19**

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