

Reducing Police Jurisdictions

SB189 - Sen. Orr and HB133 - Rep. Johnson

Under current law, a municipality or town with a population of more than 6,000 may extend its police jurisdiction 3 miles beyond its corporate limits. The current law was drafted in 1907 at a time when only 8 municipalities had more than 6,000 residents. Today that number stands at more than 100. This means that more than 100 municipalities and towns enact ordinances and regulations and levy taxes on persons who live up to 3 miles outside the corporate limits of these municipalities and towns. Even though they are subject to taxation and enforcement, these residents often do not receive the benefit of police or fire services from these municipalities and towns.

In an effort to balance these inequities, this bill would reduce all police jurisdictions to 1.5 miles effective immediately. A municipality or town would be allowed to extend its police jurisdiction to no more than 3 miles by local law only under certain conditions:

1. If it has maintained and continues to maintain a full-time police force whose services are provided throughout the entire extended area;
2. If it has maintained and continues to maintain a full-time, paid fire department whose services are provided throughout the entire extended area; and
3. If it passes a local law that expressly states that the municipality or town may only act within the extended area so long as it maintains the police force and fire department as indicated above.

To allow sufficient time for municipalities and towns to adapt to this change, this bill allows current ordinances, taxes or regulations to remain in effect in the police jurisdiction as it exists today until July 1, 2017.

After July 1, 2017, if a municipality or town has not enacted a local law extending its police jurisdiction, it shall no longer be able to enforce or collect upon any ordinance, tax or regulation outside the 1.5 mile jurisdiction.