



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 15, 2025

DATE: June 30, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Cadence Matijevich, Government Affairs Liaison, 775-328-2077,
cmatijevich@washocounty.gov

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, Interim Washoe County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve an Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks to establish a board to study regional fire and emergency services options pursuant to Senate Bill 319 of the 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature. [Total estimated fiscal impact of \$974] (All Commission Districts.) **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

SUMMARY

Senate Bill 319 (SB319), passed during the 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature and approved by Governor Lombardo on June 9, 2025, requires Washoe County, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks to jointly establish a board by interlocal agreement to study regional fire and emergency services options (SB319 Study Board). The proposed Interlocal Agreement formalizes the formation of the SB319 Study Board, its structure, responsibilities, and cost-sharing arrangement. The SB319 Study Board is tasked with conducting a comprehensive study and issuing a report by December 31, 2026. Washoe County is to serve as the administrative lead for the SB319 Study Board.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability: Efficient delivery of regional services.

PREVIOUS ACTION

At the February 6, 2025, concurrent meeting of the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners, the Truckee Meadows Board of Fire Commissioners, the Reno City Council and the Sparks City Council, the Board directed that the City Managers, the County Manager, and all fire chiefs work together to gather additional information to assess needs, costs, and impacts to help guide the process of determining options for enhanced regional fire options, including the implementation of unrestricted automatic aid between the Cities of Reno, Sparks and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

AGENDA ITEM # _____

At the March 18, 2025, meeting of the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners staff provided the Board with an overview of SB319. The Board discussed the measure but did not take any action.

BACKGROUND

SB 319 mandates the creation of a board composed of two members from each governing body of Washoe County, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks to establish a board to study the creation of a county fire protection district to consolidate fire protection services within territory within Washoe County and the Cities of Reno and Sparks. The SB319 Study Board is tasked with completing the required study and issuing a report by December 31, 2026.

The proposed Interlocal Agreement, developed jointly by staff from the three jurisdictions, outlines the SB319 Study Board's composition, authority, scope of work, governance, compliance with open meeting law, and shared cost responsibilities.

The Interlocal Agreement ensures that each participating jurisdiction has equal representation and input in the study process. The SB319 Study Board will be empowered to:

- Analyze response times, operational costs, and legal requirements
- Review and identify appropriate governance models based on identified needs
- Assess potential insurance impacts and funding mechanisms
- Contract for consultant support as needed
- Submit final recommendations to each governing body

Washoe County will serve as the administrative lead for the SB319 Study Board. All costs associated with the study will be shared equally by the parties to the Interlocal Agreement.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the Board approve the Interlocal Agreement to establish the SB319 Study Board, Washoe County's portion of any associated costs for an outside consultant to assist the SB319 Study Board with completing the tasks mandated by the legislation, as well as for costs associated with conducting public meetings, including noticing and preparation of meeting minutes will be absorbed within the County Manager Fund (101-0), FY26 adopted budget. Washoe County will be responsible for one-third of any costs incurred by the SB319 Study Board.

Estimated cost of \$2,920 (\$974 Washoe County portion) for 5 meetings include:

- Meeting Costs of \$1,250: \$250 for preparation of meeting minutes for any meeting of three hours or less, with an additional cost of \$100 per hour or part thereof for any meeting that exceeds three hours in duration for an estimated total of five meetings.
- Security Costs of \$1,620: \$324 per meeting for two security officers at \$54 per officer, per hour for an estimated total of five meetings.

- Supplies: \$50

Any associated expenditure requiring approval by the Board of County Commissioners will be brought forward for action in accordance with Washoe County Code Chapter 15 and Washoe County Purchasing Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners approve the Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks to establish the SB319 Study Board.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:
"Move to: approve the Interlocal Cooperative Agreement between Washoe County, the City of Reno, and the City of Sparks to establish the SB319 Study Board."