

Senate bill 2133

For the record my name is Senator Shawn Veda District 6. The reason I am here today on this subject about audits of Volunteer Fire departments is because of a constituent of mine who was quite surprised that they could not even by their own volunteer firefighters a meal because they had commingled funds that their Volunteer Fire Department had raised through private donations. These firemen are volunteers that take time out of their busy schedules to not only fight fires but to raise money for their departments and for their cities many of them probably are volunteers for their ambulance as well, and at the end of the day they can't even say thank you to the members of their departments without breaking a law and without having a negative audit for their Volunteer Fire departments. This bill simply states that those Volunteer Fire departments can have a separate account of monies that they raised specifically for their fire departments and from private funds to be left out of the state audit. They still can be audited by their Volunteer Fire Department or their political subdivision that they serve. I believe our elected state auditor and his staff was following the law and with this change it will allow those volunteers to receive a meal and the department to give out a scholarship or two. This concludes my testimony and if I may I'd like to read you the testimony that was sent in by my constituent.