

Date of Hearing: July 7, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Lorena Gonzalez, Chair

SB 817 (Committee on Governmental Organization) – As Amended March 16, 2021

Policy Committee: Emergency Management

Vote: 6 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill allows the four state government officials designated as voting members of the State Board of Fire Services (Board) to assign a designee to serve as their proxy.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

No cost to the Board.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Board Background.** The Board consists of 17 members: the State Fire Marshal (SFM), Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Director of Emergency Services, Chairperson of the California Fire Fighter Joint Apprenticeship, one volunteer firefighter, three fire chiefs, five fire service labor representatives and one representative each from the insurance industry, city government, fire district and county government. The Board must meet at least once per year and is responsible for addressing statewide fire protection and prevention issues, developing training standards for fire service personnel, giving curriculum accreditation, determining California Fire Service certification policies, advising the SFM on regulations and convening an appeals board on SFM regulations.
- 2) **Purpose.** According to the author, this bill provides more flexibility to the four ex-officio members of the Board by allowing them to appoint a designee to serve as their proxy, mirroring similar advisory boards across state government that also allow ex-officio members to appoint designees. This bill is sponsored by the California Professional Firefighters, which notes that assigning designees ensures the officials can have a voice and participate in important Board deliberations, while still swiftly responding to other emergencies and incidents.

**Analysis Prepared by:** Irene Ho / APPR. / (916) 319-2081