

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ryan Tunseth, Assembly President
Members, KPB Assembly

FROM: Dale Eicher, Assembly Member *DE*

DATE: January 8, 2026

RE: Resolution 2026-005, Requesting the Alaska Legislature Provide Municipalities Authority to Set the Not to Exceed Amount for the Volunteer Firefighter/EMS Optional Real Property Tax Exemption (Eicher)

The availability of skilled volunteer firefighters/EMS providers are vital to maintain high level of services within our service areas without high costs. The option KPB exemption for volunteer firefighter/EMS personnel is one way to ensure we continue to have a robust volunteer crew.

In practice, with the current exemption authorized under AS 29.45.050(r) capped at \$10,000 of assessed value, at the KPB's current mill rate, an approved exemption often results in less than \$40 in annual property tax savings. This amount provides little practical incentive and does not meaningfully offset the time, training requirements, or out-of-pocket expenses incurred by volunteer firefighter and EMS personnel.

In order to increase the tax exemption cap, State action is required. The resolution requests the State provide municipalities the flexibility to increase at their discretion, the maximum tax exemption available to volunteer firefighter/EMS personnel.

Your consideration is appreciated.