



Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana
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June 23, 2025

RECEIVED
JUN 24 2025
House of Representatives
Clerk's Office
RMW
4:15pm

The Honorable Phillip R. DeVillier
Speaker of the House
Louisiana House of Representatives
State Capitol
900 N. 3rd St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

The Honorable Michelle Fontenot
Clerk of the House
State Capitol
900 N. 3rd St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

RE: House Bill 562 of the 2025 Regular Session by Representative Bryan Fontenot

Dear Speaker DeVillier and Clerk Fontenot:

Please be advised I have vetoed House Bill 562 of the 2025 Regular Session by Representative Fontenot. This bill would have allowed fire departments, fire protection districts, and nonprofit groups working with those departments to charge individuals involved in car accidents - regardless of fault - up to \$1,800 for vehicle extrication services, and to pursue those charges through lawsuits or other legal means.

Let me be clear: I have the deepest respect for Louisiana's firefighters and first responders. These men and women are heroes who risk their lives day and night to keep our families safe. Their service is not only noble; it is essential. That is why our laws already recognize fire protection and emergency medical services as fundamental responsibilities of government, central to the health and safety of our people.

But this bill would have opened the door for accident victims - many already shaken, injured, and overwhelmed - to face surprise bills after the fact. This would add financial insult to physical injury, potentially creating a new class of "crash fees" that could burden Louisiana families.

And let us not forget the bigger picture: every time a new charge like this is allowed, it increases the cost of insurance claims. That translates directly into higher insurance premiums for all Louisiana drivers. At a time when families across our State are already struggling with some of

the highest auto insurance rates in the country, we simply cannot afford policies that make things worse.

We absolutely must continue to support our first responders; and if fire protection districts or departments need more funding, the law already provides ways to seek local approval through taxes, service charges, or parcel fees. These are decisions best made by the people, not imposed upon them through backdoor billing.

Louisianans are proud to support our firefighters. But we must do so in a way that is transparent, fair, and respectful of the everyday citizens who are already carrying a heavy load. For that reason, I have vetoed House Bill 562.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Landry", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Landry
Governor

Enclosure: Returned House Bill 562