

This is not a merger bill, these fire districts already have the ability to merge if they want — this bill just removes the limits on how much they can tax.

This bill started as a Boone County problem for fire districts, but it could mean that city Fire Departments across the Commonwealth get dissolved and merged into area fire districts.

This is not just a Boone County bill. This bill could mean higher taxes anywhere in Kentucky.

If a city decides to stop providing fire protection and instead hands off that responsibility to a newly created fire district — do you think they will lower your taxes? Or will they keep taxing you while the new fire district adds a new tax?

Several fire districts provide coverage across county lines, so which county holds the authority for that district? This bill doesn't address that issue.

There are no guarantees that a newly merged district would have to maintain the same level of coverage. Closures and consolidations means a reduction in safety. These districts can merge and then close stations, or consolidate fire companies to reduce staffing.

There are no guarantees that the employees involved in a merger will maintain their salary, their rank, their seniority, or even their job. These districts can merge and then fire people, reduce them in rank, and/or reduce their salaries.

Our profession is predicated on preparing for the “what ifs”, and this bill has many holes, and many “what ifs.”