



# Louisville Metro Government

## Legislation Details (With Text)

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**File created:** 1/13/2014      **In control:** Labor and Economic Development Committee

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**Title:** A RESOLUTION TO LOWER THE TAX BURDEN ON THE LOUISVILLE METRO TAXPAYER THROUGH ENCOURAGEMENT TOWARDS RECTIFICATION OF ONGOING LITIGATION WITH LOUISVILLE FIREFIGHTERS. (Action Required by April 2014)

**Sponsors:** David James (D-6)

**Indexes:**

**Code sections:**

**Attachments:**

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
3/6/2014	1	Labor and Economic Development Committee		
2/20/2014	1	Labor and Economic Development Committee	held	
2/20/2014	1	Labor and Economic Development Committee		
2/6/2014	1	Labor and Economic Development Committee	held	
2/6/2014	1	Labor and Economic Development Committee		

### RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_, SERIES 2014

**A RESOLUTION TO LOWER THE TAX BURDEN ON THE LOUISVILLE METRO TAXPAYER THROUGH ENCOURAGEMENT TOWARDS RECTIFICATION OF ONGOING LITIGATION WITH LOUISVILLE FIREFIGHTERS.**

**SPONSORED BY:** Council Member David James

**WHEREAS**, the Louisville Metro has engaged in ongoing litigation with Louisville firefighters for multiple years; and

**WHEREAS**, Louisville Metro has spent nearly a half-million dollars on outside lawyers to defend itself in a series of lawsuits over the past five years while the assessed tab for taxpayers continues to grow; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately \$350,000 has been paid to the Plaintiff's attorney during Louisville Metro's unsuccessful defense of the firefighters' lawsuit regarding back pay for firefighters in a dispute

originally filed in 1999; and

**WHEREAS**, the litigation involved the miscalculation of overtime pay for firefighters in violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fair Labor Standards Act was applied to fire departments and other municipal employees starting in 1986; and

**WHEREAS**, Jefferson Circuit Judge ruled that Louisville Metro and the former City of Louisville, unlawfully calculated the pay to firefighters dating back to 1985 causing Louisville Metro to negotiate with two groups previously in 2009 and 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 29, 2012 a Jefferson Circuit Judge ruled that Louisville Metro owed the retired firefighters interest for the underfunding of their pension requirements over decades laying out the terms of repayment and how the interest should be paid; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a possibility of additional court ordered interest to be paid to firefighters on the interest and judgment paid into court due to Louisville Metro's appeal of the order, which may be in the amount of 12% or approximately \$2,300 per day; and

**WHEREAS**, taxpayers are held financially responsible for those incurred legal bills and interest to the firefighters; and

**WHEREAS**, Louisville Metro has lost previous court cases and filed multiple appeals, causing further costs to the Louisville Metro taxpayer.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT (THE COUNCIL) AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION I:** The Louisville Metro Council highly encourages the Executive Branch of Louisville Metro Government to end the ongoing litigation with the men and women of the active and retired Louisville Fire Department personnel, who worked and earned wages that the city failed to pay, resulting in accrued interest payments of \$ 2,300 per day as this litigation continues to be paid by citizen tax dollars.

**SECTION II:** This Resolution shall take effect upon its passage and approval.

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Stephen Ott Metro Council Clerk

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President of the Council

Jim King

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:**

Michael J. O'Connell  
Jefferson County Attorney

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Rectify Litigation w-LFD Res. ROC bkn Draft 2.docx  
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Firefighters Resolution Revised 10-14-13  
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