

District Fire Chief  
Justin W. Lee  
401-539-2229



HOPE VALLEY-WYOMING  
FIRE DISTRICT  
996 MAIN STREET  
P.O. BOX 25  
HOPE VALLEY, RHODE ISLAND 02832

TTY VIA RI RELAY@711  
FAX (401) 539-9040

E-Mail: [chief@hvdfd.org](mailto:chief@hvdfd.org)  
Website: [www.hvdfd.org](http://www.hvdfd.org)

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TO: House Committee on Municipal Government and Housing

FROM: Fire Chief Justin W. Lee, Hope Valley – Wyoming Fire District

DATE: May 18, 2021

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 6331 Entitled, An Act Creating the Hope Valley - Wyoming Fire District.  
Introduced by Kennedy, Azzinaro, Price, and Fogarty

As Fire Chief and Administrator of the Hope Valley Wyoming - Fire District, I am writing in support of House Bill 6331, An Act Creating the Hope Valley - Wyoming Fire District, sponsored by Representatives Kennedy, Azzinaro, Price, and Fogarty. A charter committee was formed by the Fire District Board of Directors and consisted of both fire district members and members of the public to review and consolidate the current charter. This document was reviewed in full by the District's legal counsel Richard Panciera, Esq, with assistance in certain areas by Charles Soloveitzik Esq.

Changes and differences to the current charter include:

- Consolidation of the charter into one document that is easier to reference, making it more transparent for the District's governance. The current charter consisting of the original 1982 act and eight amendments makes it a very ambiguous document. This new charter combines the original act and eight amendments into one concise document.
- New language has been added at the request of legal counsel and lending institutions to facilitate the borrowing of money for district purchases for apparatus and improvements of stations. The total amount available to indebted the fire district for capital purchase did not change and remains at 3% of the total of the District's tax rolls.
- The public budget hearing and annual meeting were moved one month earlier to facilitate approval of the following year's budget before the actual budget year starts.

I will be available the night of the hearing to address any additional questions the committee may have.