



**One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009**  
**Introducer's Statement of Intent**  
**LB 537**

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**Chairperson:** Steve Lathrop  
**Committee:** Business and Labor  
**Date of Hearing:** March 2, 2009

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The purpose of LB 537 is to give working hour flexibility to cities with volunteer fire departments that hire a few paid full-time firefighters to support the department. Section 35-302 currently provides that paid full-time firefighters cannot work more than forty hours per week unless they work in twenty-four hour shifts. This places severe restrictions on cities with volunteer fire departments that wish to hire some full-time paid firefighters to support the department.

LB 537 would provide flexibility to cities and villages with volunteer fire departments to hire full-time paid firefighters to support the department and to work when volunteers are not readily available. These firefighters would generally work eight-hour days but would also need to be available to for training or fire calls after hours.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Senator Robert Giese**