

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017
4

As Engrossed: H3/14/17

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2122

5 By: Representative Hammer
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE
9 ASSISTANCE TO FIRE DEPARTMENTS THAT IMPROVE INSURANCE
10 SERVICES OFFICE RATING; TO EXPAND THE DUTIES OF THE
11 ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT; AND FOR
12 OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE
16 ASSISTANCE TO FIRE DEPARTMENTS THAT
17 IMPROVE INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE RATING;
18 AND TO EXPAND THE DUTIES OF THE ARKANSAS
19 DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Fire Rating Reduction
26 Plan Pilot Program.

27 (a) Beginning in the 2018 fiscal year, if a fire department has not
28 certified for Acts 1991, No. 833, moneys for over five (5) years, the Chief
29 Fiscal Officer of the State shall transfer the Acts 1991, No. 833, moneys
30 that are not certified to the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management to
31 be deposited into the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account to be used
32 exclusively for the Fire Rating Reduction Plan Pilot Program established
33 under this section.

34 (b)(1) The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management shall develop
35 by rule and oversee the Fire Rating Reduction Plan Pilot Program.

36 (2) A fire department that is part of the program shall operate



1 and utilize available funds to improve the fire department's public
2 protection classification system rating to at least a 6 or better.

3 (3)(A) The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management shall
4 select counties for the program from eligible counties and fire departments
5 in each county.

6 (B) The selection criteria for a county to be considered
7 under subdivision (b)(3)(A) of this section include:

8 (i) Number of municipal fire departments located in
9 the county;

10 (ii) Number of volunteer fire departments located in
11 the county;

12 (iii) Number of nonprofit fire departments located
13 in the county;

14 (iv) The availability and accessibility of fire
15 protection services, including firefighting machinery and equipment and the
16 number of necessary firefighters to combat fires; and

17 (v) The geographic location of the fire departments
18 in the county and in the state.

19 (c) A fire department participating in the program shall:

20 (1) Apply for grants under the program; and

21 (2) Operate to improve the fire department's public protection
22 classification system rating.

23 (d) The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management shall promulgate
24 rules for implementation of the program which shall make available funds for
25 the program to be used in defraying the initial cost of equipment, repair,
26 furnishing, and adaptation of vehicles as fire trucks, or other firefighting
27 machinery and equipment, and to make grants, as provided in this section, to
28 counties participating in the program to provide a portion of the moneys
29 required to enable the fire departments to acquire vehicles and other
30 firefighting machinery and equipment from the Arkansas Department of
31 Emergency Management or personnel or services necessary to prepare for a
32 public protection classification rating review.

33 (e) The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management shall adopt rules
34 to administer the program for eligible counties, including without
35 limitation, rules that address:

36 (1) Applications;

1 (2) Administration; and

2 (3) Reporting requirements.

3 (f)(1) A county participating in the program shall evaluate the
4 effectiveness of the program in each participating fire department located in
5 the county by measuring:

6 (A) Costs associated with administering and operating the
7 fire department after receiving additional firefighting machinery and
8 equipment under the program; and

9 (B) The amount of improvement of a participating fire
10 department's public protection classification system rating level.

11 (2)(A) The fire department shall submit an annual report to the
12 Arkansas Department of Emergency Management.

13 (B) The annual report described in subdivision (f)(2)(A)
14 of this section shall be filed by January 31 of each year.

15 (g) The program shall expire on July 1, 2021, unless it is continued
16 by the General Assembly.

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18 */s/Hammer*
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