

**Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed
prior to this session of the General Assembly.
Act 808 of the Regular Session**

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

A Bill

SENATE BILL 872

4
5 By: Senator Teague
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For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CERTIFICATION STANDARDS OF
10 FIREFIGHTERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

12
13 CONCERNING THE CERTIFICATION STANDARDS
14 OF FIREFIGHTERS.
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17 WHEREAS, the General Assembly encourages the Arkansas Fire Training
18 Academy to make every effort to provide sixteen-hour training courses to
19 effectuate the purposes of this Act.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 20-22-806 is amended to read as follows:
24 20-22-806. Certification and classification of fire departments.

25 (a) Fire departments in this state may apply for annual certification
26 and classification by the Director of the Office of Fire Protection Services.
27 Each fire department applying for certification shall submit such information
28 as may be required by the director to determine whether the fire department
29 meets minimum certification standards and to classify the department as to
30 its level of service.

31 (b)(1) Certification standards for fire departments shall not be
32 changed unless the changes are approved by the Arkansas Fire Protection
33 Services Board.

34 (2) Any change to the certification standards under this
35 subsection shall not be effective until twelve (12) months after the adoption



1 of the published change.

2 (c)(1) Firefighters shall maintain a minimum of ~~twenty-four (24)~~
 3 sixteen (16) hours per year of certifiable training meeting the standards of
 4 the Arkansas Fire Training Academy.

5 (2) A firefighter who receives more certified hours than
 6 required in this subdivision (c)(1) in a year may carry over the additional
 7 certified hours to the next year only.

8 (d) Firefighters shall also receive within the first year of service
 9 as a firefighter:

10 (1) Up to sixteen (16) hours in the Introduction to Firefighting
 11 course;

12 (2) Up to sixteen (16) hours in the Personal Protective
 13 Equipment course; and

14 (3) Up to eight (8) hours in the Wildland Fire Suppression
 15 course.

16 (e)(1) A member of a fire department who does not engage in
 17 firefighting is exempt from the requirements of this section.

18 (2) A member under this subdivision (e)(1) shall be eligible for
 19 workers' compensation coverage under § 20-22-809.

20 (3) A member under this subdivision (e)(1) is considered a
 21 firefighter for the purpose of number of members of the fire department.

22 (f) A fire department that complies with this section is eligible for
 23 insurance premium tax moneys under § 14-284-401 et seq.

24
 25 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 20-22-809 is amended to read as follows:
 26 20-22-809. Workers' compensation.

27 (a) For the purpose of workers' compensation coverage in cases of
 28 injury to or death of an individual, volunteer firefighters of certified fire
 29 departments, other than municipal fire departments, who meet the requirements
 30 of this section ~~shall be deemed~~ are county employees and shall receive
 31 minimum compensation. Their survivors shall receive death benefits in the
 32 same manner as regular county employees for injury or death arising out of
 33 and in the course of their activities as firefighters.

34 (b) Volunteer firefighters requesting workers' compensation coverage
 35 shall annually file with the county clerk evidence that:

36 (1) The firefighter has met the minimum training standards

1 recommended by the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board; and

2 (2) The volunteer firefighter is a member of a certified fire
3 department other than a municipal fire department.

4 (c) A member of a fire department under § 20-22-806 who does not
5 engage in firefighting is eligible for workers' compensation under this
6 section.

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8 **APPROVED: 4/3/2009**
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