

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 696

4  
5 By: Senator A. Clark

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A FIRE DEPARTMENT APPLICANT TO  
9 SUBMIT TO A BACKGROUND CHECK; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

### Subtitle

12 TO REQUIRE A FIRE DEPARTMENT APPLICANT TO  
14 SUBMIT TO A BACKGROUND CHECK.

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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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19 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 22, Subchapter 1, is  
20 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

21 20-22-101. Criminal background check.

22 (a) As used in this section, "fire department" means any fire  
23 department that employs a firefighter on a full-time, part-time, or volunteer  
24 duty status.

25 (b) The Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board shall require a  
26 criminal background check of a fire department applicant that conforms to  
27 applicable federal standards and includes the taking of fingerprints.

28 (c) The criminal background check shall be performed through the  
29 Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police and the  
30 Federal Bureau of Investigation.

31 (d) Prior to a criminal background check, the fire department  
32 applicant shall sign a release authorizing the criminal background check.

33 (e) The fire department or the fire department applicant shall pay the  
34 fees associated with the criminal background check.

35 (f) The results of the criminal background check shall be used for the  
36 determination of the fitness or suitability of the fire department applicant



1 as a firefighter.

2 (g) The criminal background information of a fire department applicant  
3 shall be treated as confidential.

4 (h) Information received by a fire department pursuant to a criminal  
5 background check obtained under this section shall be destroyed by the fire  
6 department within six (6) months of receipt of the information.

7 (i) The Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board shall promulgate rules  
8 for the requesting and use of criminal background checks under this section.

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