State of Arkansas

A Bill

93rd General Assembly

Regular Session, 2021   SENATE BILL 678

By: Senator A. Clark

By: Representative Warren

Filed with: Senate Committee on Judiciary

pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE A FIRE DEPARTMENT APPLICANT TO
SUBMIT TO A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK.

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

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

20-22-101. Criminal background check.

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

(b) A fire department shall require a criminal background check of an
applicant that conforms to applicable federal standards and includes the
taking of fingerprints.

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

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

1   (e)   The fire department or the applicant shall pay the fees associated

2 with the criminal background check.

3   (f)   The results of the criminal background check shall be used for the

4 determination of the fitness or suitability of the applicant as a

5 firefighter.

6   (g)   The criminal background information of an applicant shall be

7 treated as confidential.

8   (h)   A criminal background check obtained under this section shall be

9 destroyed within six (6) months of receipt of the criminal background check.

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12 Referred requested by the Arkansas Senate

13 Prepared by: MBM/KFW

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