

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to law as it existed prior to the 82nd General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 82nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1999
4

As Engrossed: H3/19/99 H3/25/99 H4/7/99

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2031

5 By: Representatives Womack, Sheppard, Bond
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 "AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS FIRE COMMISSION; AND
10 FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

Subtitle

13 "TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS FIRE COMMISSION."
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15

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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18 SECTION 1. (a) There is hereby created the Arkansas Fire Commission to
19 be composed of seventeen (17) members.

20 (b) The following members shall be appointed by the Governor, subject
21 to confirmation by the Senate:

22 (1) Two (2) members to be from paid municipal fire departments;

23 (2) Two (2) members to be from volunteer fire departments;

24 (3) One (1) member to be appointed from the Arkansas Fire Chief's

25 Association;

26 (4) One (1) member to be appointed from the Arkansas Rural and

27 Volunteer Firefighters Association;

28 (5) One (1) member to be appointed from the Arkansas Professional

29 Firefighters;

30 (6) One (1) member to be appointed from Arkansas State

31 Firefighters Association;

32 (7) One (1) member to be appointed from the Arkansas Municipal

33 League;

34 (8) One (1) member to be appointed from the Association of

35 Arkansas Counties; and

36 (9) One (1) member to be appointed from the Arkansas Forestry

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1 Commission.

2 (c) The following persons shall also be members of the commission:

3 (1) The director of the Arkansas Department of Emergency

4 Management;

5 (2) The Director of the Office of State Fire Marshall;

6 (3) The Director of the Arkansas Fire Training Academy;

7 (4) The Director of the Department of Health or his or her

8 representative;

9 (5) The Director of the Department of Rural Services; and

10 (6) A representative of the Arkansas Department of Insurance,

11 designated by the Insurance Commission.

12 (d) The Commission shall include representation from the four (4)

13 congressional districts.

14 (e) Members appointed by the Governor shall be serve for staggered

15 terms of three (3) years. The staggered terms will be assigned by lot. The

16 terms shall commence on March 15 of each year.

17 (f) In the event of a vacancy for any reason other than expiration of a

18 regular term, the vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the

19 term by appointment of the Governor.

20 (g) The members of the Commission may be removed by the Governor for

21 neglect of duty or malfeasance in office.

22 (h) Members of the Commission shall not be entitled to compensation for

23 their services but may receive expense reimbursement in accordance with

24 Arkansas Code 25-16-902.

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26 SECTION 2. (a) The Governor shall designate a person on the Commission

27 to call and preside at the first meeting. The Commission shall meet within

28 thirty (30) days after its appointment to organize as necessary to carry out

29 its purposes as prescribed by this act.

30 (b)(1) The director of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management

31 shall serve as chairperson of the commission. At the initial organizational

32 meeting of the commission, the members shall elect from among their number a

33 vice-chairperson.

34 (2) Annually thereafter, an organizational meeting shall be held

35 to elect a vice-chairperson.

36 (3) The commission shall also select a member to serve as

1 secretary.

2 (4) A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute
3 a quorum for the transaction of business and to perform such duties as the
4 Commission may prescribe.

5 (c) The Commission shall meet at least quarterly. Special meetings may
6 be called by the chair or as provided by the rules of the Commission.

7 (d) The secretary of the Commission shall keep full and true records of
8 the Commission proceedings and preserve all books, documents, and papers
9 relating to the business of the Commission.

10 (e) The Commission shall report in writing to the Governor and the
11 Legislative Council by July 31 of each year. The report shall contain a
12 summary of the proceedings of the Commission during the preceding fiscal year,
13 a detailed and itemized statement of all revenue and of all expenditures made
14 by or in behalf of the Commission, other information deemed necessary or
15 useful, and any additional information which may be requested by the Governor
16 or the Legislative Council.

17 (f) The Arkansas Fire Commission, in addition to other duties and
18 powers mentioned in this act, shall regard fire prevention on a statewide
19 level as the main focus along with equipping incorporated and unincorporated
20 communities across the state with the resources, training, education,
21 technical support and other such means necessary to insure the issue of fire
22 and fire safety is addressed.

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24 SECTION 3. The following Boards and Commissions are abolished and their
25 powers, duties, records, personnel, property, unexpended balances or
26 appropriations, allocation, or other funds shall be transferred to the
27 Arkansas Fire Commission:

28 (1) The Arkansas Fire Advisory Board;

29 (2) The Rural Fire Departments Study Commission;

30 (3) The Fire Training Academy Board; and

31 (4) The State Fire Prevention Commission.

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33 SECTION 4. All provisions of this act of a general and permanent nature
34 are amendatory to the Arkansas Code of 1987 Annotated and the Arkansas Code
35 Revision Commission shall incorporate the same in the Code.

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SECTION 5. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 6. All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this act are hereby repealed.

/s/ Womack, et al