

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.

1 State of Arkansas  
2 84th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2003  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2568

5 By: Representative White  
6  
7

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR MINIMUM FIREFIGHTER  
10 TRAINING STANDARDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

## Subtitle

13 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR MINIMUM  
14 FIREFIGHTER TRAINING STANDARDS.  
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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 § 20-22-802 is amended to read as follows:  
20 20-22-802. Definitions.

21 As used in this subchapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

22 (1) "Board" means the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board;

23 (2) "Certified fire department" means any fire department  
24 certified by the Director of the Office of Fire Protection Services as  
25 meeting minimum standards prescribed by the Arkansas Fire Protection Services  
26 Board;

27 (3) "Director" means the Director of the Office of Fire  
28 Protection Services;

29 (4) "Fire department" means any organization established for the  
30 prevention or extinguishment of fires including, but not limited to, fire  
31 departments organized under improvement districts, private fire departments,  
32 and volunteer fire departments;

33 (5) "Fire fighter" means any paid or volunteer member of a fire  
34 department who engages in fire suppressions, rescue, pump operations, or  
35 other fire ground activities.  
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1 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 22, Subchapter 8 is amended  
 2 to add additional sections to read as follows:

3 20-22-810. Legislative purpose and intent.

4 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

5 (1) The specialized and hazardous nature of firefighting  
 6 requires that firefighters possess the requisite knowledge and demonstrate  
 7 the ability to perform certain skills to carry out their responsibilities;  
 8 and

9 (2) The activities of firefighters are important to the health,  
 10 safety, and welfare of the people of this state.

11 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to require and provide  
 12 minimum standards for training for firefighters and that the training occur  
 13 at the Arkansas Fire Training Academy.

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 15 20-22-811. Training Requirements.

16 (a)(1) After January 1, 2004, no person shall be hired as a full-time  
 17 firefighter by any local government firefighting unit for a period exceeding  
 18 one (1) year or for a cumulative time exceeding two thousand eight hundred  
 19 (2,800) compensated hours, unless that person is certified as completing the  
 20 mandatory training requirements in subsection (c) of this section.

21 (2) Any state agency or political subdivision that employs a  
 22 person as a firefighter for a period exceeding one (1) year or for a  
 23 cumulative time exceeding two thousand eight hundred (2,800) compensated  
 24 hours, who does not meet the requirements of subsection (c) of this section  
 25 is prohibited from paying the salary of the person from state funds.

26 (3) The Arkansas Fire Advisory Board may grant an extension to  
 27 individuals employed within the guidelines as established by the board not to  
 28 exceed one (1) year.

29 (b) Firefighters serving as full-time employees before January 1,  
 30 2004, in a local firefighting unit shall not be required to meet the minimum  
 31 requirements in subsection (c) of this section.

32 (c)(1) The uniform training standards for all full time firefighters  
 33 shall consist of satisfactory completion of a training program administered  
 34 by the Arkansas Fire Training Academy which shall utilize the National Fire  
 35 Protection Association fire service professional qualifications standards of  
 36 2001.

1           (2) The Arkansas Fire Training Academy shall be the certifying  
2 agency for fire service personnel.

3           (3) Any person seeking employment from another state shall  
4 submit his or her certification to the Arkansas Fire Academy for review and  
5 approval.

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