

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

As Engrossed: H4/7/03
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2568

5 By: Representative White
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For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

12 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR MINIMUM
13 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 *minimum*
12 *standards for training for entry level full time firefighters.*

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14 20-22-811. Training Requirements.

15 (a)(1) After January 1, 2004, no person shall be hired as a full-time
16 firefighter by any local government firefighting unit for a period exceeding
17 one (1) year or for a cumulative time exceeding two thousand *nine* hundred
18 *twelve* (2,912) compensated hours, unless that person is certified as
19 completing the mandatory training requirements in subsection (c) of this
20 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 *nine hundred twelve* (2,912)
24 compensated hours, who does not meet the requirements of subsection (c) of
25 this section *is prohibited from performing the duties of the fire*
26 *suppression, rescue, pump operations, or other fire ground activities as*
27 *described in § 20-22-802(5).*

28 (3) The Arkansas Fire Advisory Board may grant an extension to
29 individuals employed within the guidelines as established by the board.

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

33 (c)(1) The uniform training standards for *entry level full time*
34 *firefighters shall consist of satisfactory completion of a training program*
35 *administered by the Arkansas Fire Training Academy which shall utilize the*
36 *National Fire Protection Association Fire Service Professional Qualifications*

1 Standard of 1001.

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

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

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/s/ White

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