

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

1 State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H3/12/15 H3/13/15 H3/17/15*
2 90th General Assembly **A Bill**
3 Regular Session, 2015

HOUSE BILL 1659

4
5 By: Representatives Hammer, Ratliff
6 By: Senator A. Clark

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8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE RURAL FIRE
10 DEPARTMENTS STUDY COMMITTEE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE RURAL
15 FIRE DEPARTMENTS STUDY COMMITTEE.

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

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20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 14-272-101(b)(1), concerning the creation
21 of the Rural Fire Departments Study Committee, is amended to read as follows:

22 (b)(1) The following shall be nonvoting ex officio members of the
23 ~~committee~~ Rural Fire Departments Study Committee:

24 (A) One (1) member representing the Arkansas Farm Bureau
25 Federation, to be recommended by the Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation and
26 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

27 (B) One (1) member representing the Independent Insurance
28 Agents of Arkansas, to be recommended by the Independent Insurance Agents of
29 Arkansas and appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

30 (C) One (1) member representing the Arkansas County Judges
31 Association, to be recommended by the Arkansas County Judges Association and
32 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

33 (D) One (1) member representing the Arkansas Rural and
34 Volunteer Fire Fighters Association, to be recommended by the Arkansas Rural
35 and Volunteer Fire Fighters Association and appointed by the Speaker of the
36 House of Representatives;



1 (E) One (1) member representing the Arkansas Council of
2 Professional Fire Fighters, to be recommended by the Arkansas Council of
3 Professional Fire Fighters and appointed by the Speaker of the House of
4 Representatives;

5 (F) One (1) member representing the Arkansas Municipal
6 League, to be recommended by the Arkansas Municipal League and appointed by
7 the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

8 (G) One (1) member appointed by the Speaker of the House
9 of Representatives ~~to represent~~ be recommended by the Arkansas State
10 Firefighters Association;

11 (H) The Director of the Arkansas Forestry Commission or ~~the~~
12 ~~director's~~ his or her designee;

13 (I) The Director of the Department of Rural Services or
14 ~~the director's~~ his or her designee; ~~and~~

15 (J) The Manager of the Rural Fire Protection Program of
16 the Arkansas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils;

17 (K) The State Fire Marshal or his or her designee;

18 (L) The Insurance Commissioner or his or her designee;

19 (M) The State Fire Service Coordinator of the Arkansas
20 Department of Emergency Management or his or her designee;

21 (N) The President of the Arkansas Forestry Association or
22 his or her designee;

23 (O) The State Geographic Information Officer or his or her
24 designee;

25 (P) Two (2) firefighters representing volunteer fire
26 departments, to be recommended by the cochairs of the Rural Fire Departments
27 Study Committee and appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

28 (Q) Two (2) fire chiefs representing volunteer fire
29 departments, to be recommended by the Arkansas Association of Fire Chiefs and
30 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

31 (R) One (1) member representing nonprofit fire
32 departments, to be recommended by the cochairs of the Rural Fire Departments
33 Study Committee and appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

34 (S) A fire department consultant, to be recommended by the
35 cochairs of the Rural Fire Departments Study Committee and appointed by the
36 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

1 (T) One (1) member representing the Insurance Services
2 Office, Inc., to be recommended by the cochairs of the Rural Fire Departments
3 Study Committee and appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
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5 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 14-272-103, concerning studies and findings
6 of the Rural Fire Departments Study Committee, is amended to add an
7 additional subsection to read as follows:

8 (c) The committee shall:

9 (1) Study, review, and analyze potential incentives and methods
10 to recruit and retain volunteers for nonmunicipal fire departments;

11 (2) Study and review the number of nonmunicipal fire departments
12 and any available resources in the state to determine the most efficient
13 operation of nonmunicipal fire departments and evaluate if consolidation of
14 fire departments or other measures are necessary to improve efficiency;

15 (3) Study and review all types of nonmunicipal fire departments,
16 including without limitation countywide fire departments, and the potential
17 conversion of the departments to fire protection districts;

18 (4) Study and develop a comprehensive plan to bring all
19 nonmunicipal fire departments' Insurance Services Office, Inc.'s Public
20 Protection Classification rating to Class 6 or less by January 1, 2024,
21 including without limitation a review of:

22 (A) Numbers of volunteers for each nonmunicipal fire
23 department;

24 (B) Number of nonmunicipal fire department locations;

25 (C) Equipment at each nonmunicipal fire department
26 location; and

27 (D) Essential equipment necessary at each nonmunicipal
28 fire department location;

29 (5) Study and review the financial solvency of nonmunicipal fire
30 departments and analyze the impact of an increase in funding to the
31 nonmunicipal fire departments;

32 (6) Study and review the role of nonmunicipal fire departments,
33 including without limitation response to fires, nonstructural fires, medical
34 assistance calls, rescues, and other emergency services;

35 (7) Study and review the role of fire department consultants and
36 establish guidelines and qualifications for fire department consulting

1 services; and

2 (8) Study and review other nonmunicipal fire department matters
3 as deemed necessary by the committee.

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5 /s/Hammer

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