

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1805 **DATE:** April 28, 2009
Version: Second engrossment
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Subject: Full-Time Firefighter Licensing Standards
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Overview

This bill creates licensing standards for full-time firefighters.

Section

1 Powers and duties. Requires the board of Firefighter Training and Education to license full-time and volunteer firefighters.

2 Definitions. Defines terms for the purposes of this bill.

3 Firefighter Certification.

Subd. 1. Certification examination; requirements. Requires the board to appoint an accredited organization to prepare and administer firefighter certification examinations. Requires the examinations to be designed to ensure competency in the areas of (1) fire prevention; (2) fire suppression; and (3) hazardous materials operations.

Subd. 2. Eligibility for certification examination. Allows any person to take the firefighter certification examination who has successfully completed the following:

- a firefighter course from a postsecondary educational institution, an accredited institution of higher learning, other entities approved by the board, or an apprenticeship program maintained by a fire department employing the person; and
- a skills-oriented basic training course.

Subd. 3. Certain baccalaureate or associate degree holders eligible to take certification examination. Allows a person to take the firefighter certification examination who has a baccalaureate or an associate degree in applied fire science technology from an accredited college or university, provided they have successfully

completed the skills-oriented basic training course.

4 **License Required.**

Subd. 1. Licensure requirement. Requires a full-time firefighter employed on or after July 1, 2011, by a fire department to be licensed as a firefighter by the board.

Subd. 2. Optional licensing. Allows a volunteer firefighter to apply for a licensure under this section.

Subd. 3. Prior appointment. Provides that a full-time or volunteer firefighter who has received a permanent appointment with a fire department prior to July 1, 2011, will be licensed by the board at the request of the firefighter upon providing the board with a signed statement by the chief firefighting officer of the fire department that employs the firefighter.

Subd. 4. Newly employed firefighters. Requires any full-time firefighter employed by a fire department on or after July 1, 2011, to obtain a license from the board. Provides that if the firefighter does not meet the requirements of subd. 3, the individual must meet the certification requirements provided in section 3.

Subd. 5. Issuance of license. Requires the board to license any individual who meets the requirements of this section. Provides that a license is valid for three years, and has an issuance fee of \$75.

Subd. 6. License renewal. Provides that the license will be renewed as long as the firefighter had at least 72 hours of firefighter training during the previous three years. The license renewal fee is \$75 and the license is valid for another three years.

Subd. 7. Duties of chief firefighting officer. Requires every chief firefighting officer to ensure that all full-time firefighters have a license beginning July 1, 2011. Applications for licensure may be submitted after January 1, 2011.

Subd. 8. Revocation; suspension; denial. Allows the board to revoke, suspend, or deny a license issued or applied for if the individual has been convicted of a felony that the board recognizes would disqualify the licensee from participating in the profession of firefighting.

Subd. 9. Fees. Requires licensing fees to be deposited in a special account and used for the board's costs for licensing and certification.

5 **Effective Date:** July 1, 2009.