

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Firefighters; licensure requirements modified and license reciprocity provided

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Overview

This bill modifies certain licensure requirements for firefighters, establishes a firefighter licensure reciprocity exam based on relevant military experience, and makes technical changes to certain firefighter training and education provisions.

Section

- 1 **Fire department.** Makes technical changes.
- 2 **Terms; chair; compensation.** Removes the requirement that the Board of Firefighter Training and Education elect the board's chair each year.
- 3 **Chief firefighting officer.** Defines a "chief firefighting officer" as the highest ranking employee or appointed official of a fire department or that person's designee.
- 4 **Full-time firefighter.** Makes technical changes.
- 5 **Licensed firefighter.** Makes technical changes.
- 6 **Volunteer firefighter.** Makes technical changes.
- 7 **Certain baccalaureate or associate degree holders eligible to take certification examination.** Makes technical changes.
- 8 **Licensure requirement.** Removes the grandfather clause established for licensure of full time firefighters.
- 9 **Obtaining a firefighter license.** Requires firefighters to complete an application to secure licensure from the board. A license is valid for a three-year period determined by the board.

Section

- 10 License renewal; expiration and reinstatement.** Modifies license renewal and reinstatement requirements and procedures.
- 11 Duties of chief firefighting officer.** Modifies duties of chief firefighting officers in regards to ensuring licensure of their firefighters.
- 12 Revocation; suspension; denial.** Expands grounds for which the board may revoke, suspend, or deny a license. Requires notice of criminal convictions be provided to the board.
- 13 Eligibility for reciprocity examination based on relevant military experience.** Establishes a reciprocity exam based on relevant military experience. Provides that a person is eligible to take the reciprocity examination if he or she has relevant military experience and has been honorably discharged or is currently in active service.
- 14 Repealer.** Repeals section 299N.05, subdivisions 3 and 4, which provide for licensure of firefighter appointees prior to and after July 1, 2011, where the firefighter's chief vouches for the firefighter's training.