

Subject Firefighter licensing
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Overview

This bill makes changes to the licensing requirements for firefighters.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Fire department. Amends the definition of “fire department” to exclude industrial fire brigades that do not have a fire department identification number issued by the state fire marshal. Currently, all industrial fire brigades are excluded from the definition.
2	Terms; chair; compensation. Extends the term of board members from one year to two years.
3	Powers and duties. Adds maintaining a list of qualified instructors to the required duties of the Board of Firefighter Training and Education. Permits the board to accept funding from the fire safety account and reimburse fire departments for training, set guidelines regarding how allocated reimbursement funds must be distributed, and set standards governing the use of reimbursement funds.
4	Fire department. Amends the definition of “fire department” consistent with the change in section 1 of the bill.
5	Full-time firefighter. Amends the definition of “full-time firefighter” to provide a statutory reference for the definition of “fire company.”
6	Licensed firefighter. Amends the definition of “licensed firefighter” to specifically include a state employee.

Section	Description
7	<p>Firefighter examination.</p> <p>Replaces the existing requirements for firefighter certification with the requirement that applicants demonstrate competency that meets the NFPA1001 standard or a national standard. Makes additional conforming changes.</p>
8	<p>Licensure requirement.</p> <p>Establishes two additional requirements for a firefighter to be eligible for permanent employment: (1) the firefighter must successfully complete a firefighter examination; and (2) the chief firefighting officer or a designee must provide employment verification.</p>
9	<p>Optional licensing.</p> <p>Provides that a volunteer firefighter may receive a license if that person is affiliated with a department under the same terms as a full-time firefighter.</p>
10	<p>Obtaining a fire license.</p> <p>Requires that a firefighter be affiliated with a fire department to obtain a license and states that the firefighter must also meet the requirements of section 299N.04, 299N.05, or 299N.06.</p>
11	<p>License renewal; expiration and reinstatement.</p> <p>Requires that a firefighter's license must be renewed if the application is completed and the firefighter or chief attest that the firefighter met the required hours of training; provide proof of training upon request; verify that the person is actively serving on a department; and attests that the person has not been convicted of a felony, arson-related charge, or another offense arising from the same set of circumstances. States that the renewal fee is \$75 and lasts for three years.</p>
12	<p>Fees; appropriation.</p> <p>Provides that fees collected under section 299N.05 must be credited to an account used to pay costs incurred under sections 299N.04, 299N.05, and 299N.06.</p>
13	<p>Eligibility for reciprocity and examination based on relevant military experience.</p> <p>Creates a new right to apply for licensure for an applicant who becomes an active member of a fire department, has the appropriate certified accreditation by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress or Pro Board, and has met the requirements in section 299N.04, contained in section 7 of the bill. Makes conforming changes to the existing provision relating to military experience.</p>



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