

By: Representatives Zuber, Ford (54th)

To: Insurance

HOUSE BILL NO. 820

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 45-11-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 REMOVE THE LIMITATION OF THE NUMBER OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL  
3 RESPONDERS THE STATE FIRE ACADEMY MAY TRAIN; AND FOR RELATED  
4 PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 45-11-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 45-11-7. (1) There is hereby created a State Fire Academy  
9 for the training and education of persons engaged in municipal,  
10 county and industrial fire protection. The Commissioner of  
11 Insurance shall appoint an Executive Director of the State Fire  
12 Academy who, along with his employees, shall be designated as a  
13 division of the Insurance Department. The executive director  
14 shall serve at the pleasure of the Commissioner of Insurance. The  
15 State Fire Academy shall be under the supervision and direction of  
16 the Executive Director of the State Fire Academy. State Fire  
17 Academy training programs for fire personnel shall be conducted at  
18 the academy with seminars to be conducted in other sections of the



19 state as and when the State Fire Academy Advisory Board considers  
20 it necessary and advisable.

21 The Commissioner of Insurance may establish and charge  
22 reasonable fees for the training programs and other services  
23 provided by the academy. A record of all funds received pursuant  
24 to this paragraph shall be maintained as is required for other  
25 monies pursuant to Section 45-11-5.

26 The Executive Director of the State Fire Academy is  
27 authorized and empowered to purchase, operate and maintain mobile  
28 firefighting equipment as he may find necessary and proper for the  
29 operation of the academy subject to approval of the Commissioner  
30 of Insurance. The equipment may be utilized wherever training  
31 sessions may be held at the discretion of the State Fire Academy  
32 Advisory Board.

33 (2) The Commissioner of Insurance shall be authorized to  
34 undertake appropriate action to accomplish and fulfill the  
35 purposes of the State Fire Academy, including the hiring of  
36 instructors and personnel, the lease and purchase of appropriate  
37 training equipment and to lease, purchase or construct suitable  
38 premises and quarters for conducting annual school and seminars,  
39 as the State Fire Academy Advisory Board may deem necessary and  
40 required for such purposes. Any contract entered into under and  
41 by virtue of the provisions of this section shall first be  
42 submitted to and approved by the Public Procurement Review Board,



43 and construction pursuant to the contract shall be under the  
44 supervision of the Governor's Office of General Services.

45 (3) Vouchers for operating expense for the State Fire  
46 Academy shall be signed by the Executive Director of the State  
47 Fire Academy and payment thereof shall be made from such funds to  
48 be derived from a special allocation from the State Fire Academy  
49 Fund as provided in Section 45-11-5.

50 (4) The State Fire Academy is hereby officially designated  
51 as the agency of this state to conduct training for fire personnel  
52 on a statewide basis in which members of all duly constituted fire  
53 departments may participate. This subsection shall not be  
54 construed to affect the authority of any fire department to  
55 conduct training for its own personnel.

56 (5) Each state agency, private agency or federal agency  
57 which provides training for the fire service shall coordinate such  
58 efforts with the State Fire Academy to prevent duplication of cost  
59 and to \* \* \* ensure standardization of training.

60 (6) The State Fire Academy shall present an appropriate  
61 certificate signifying the successful completion of its prescribed  
62 courses.

63 (7) National firefighter standards approved by the  
64 Mississippi Fire Personnel Minimum Standards and Certification  
65 Board shall be used as the basis for classroom instruction at the  
66 fire academy.



67 (8) The Commissioner of Insurance, Executive Director of the  
68 State Fire Academy, and the Mississippi Fire Personnel Minimum  
69 Standards and Certification Board shall coordinate all state  
70 programs related to fire department operations.

71 (9) The Commissioner of Insurance is hereby authorized and  
72 empowered to establish standard guidelines for the use of, and  
73 accountability for, municipal and county fire protection funds  
74 distributed pursuant to the provisions of Sections 83-1-37 and  
75 83-1-39, Mississippi Code of 1972. Such guidelines shall include  
76 requirements for the establishment of record keeping and reports  
77 to the Commissioner of Insurance by municipalities and counties  
78 relating to the receipt and expenditure of fire protection funds,  
79 the training of fire department personnel and the submission to  
80 the Commissioner of Insurance of other data reasonably related to  
81 local fire protection responsibilities which the Commissioner of  
82 Insurance deems necessary for the performance of the duties of the  
83 State Fire Academy Advisory Board.

84 (10) In order that the Commissioner of Insurance may more  
85 effectively execute the duties imposed upon him by subsection (9)  
86 of this section, there is hereby created within the State Fire  
87 Academy a Division of Fire Services Development. The division  
88 shall be staffed by a Fire Services Development Coordinator,  
89 appointed by the executive director of the academy from his  
90 current staff and by such other personnel as deemed by the  
91 Commissioner of Insurance. The division shall work with municipal



92 and county fire coordinators to ensure effective implementation of  
93 guidelines established pursuant to subsection (9) of this section  
94 and shall serve in an advisory capacity for all aspects of fire  
95 service improvement. The Fire Service Coordinator shall annually  
96 notify the Department of Finance and Administration of those  
97 municipalities and counties which are not eligible to receive a  
98 portion of fire protection fund distributions because of failure  
99 to comply with requirements imposed in Sections 83-1-37 and  
100 83-1-39 as a prerequisite to receipt of such funds.

101 (11) There is created in the State Treasury a separate  
102 account to be known as the "State Fire Academy Construction Fund."  
103 The State Treasurer shall transfer on July 1, 1997, the sum of Six  
104 Hundred Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$675,000.00) and on July 1,  
105 1998, the sum of Six Hundred Seventy-five Thousand Dollars  
106 (\$675,000.00) from the State Fire Academy Fund 3502 into the  
107 separate account created in this subsection. Monies in such  
108 account shall be expended solely, upon legislative appropriations,  
109 to defray expenses related to the construction of capital  
110 improvements project known as "Fire Safety and Education Building"  
111 and parking areas at the State Fire Academy by the Bureau of  
112 Building, Grounds and Real Property Management of the Office of  
113 General Services and to pay any indebtedness incurred to  
114 accomplish such construction. Funds not used after the completion  
115 of this capital improvements project shall be transferred back  
116 into State Fund 3502.



117 (12) From and after July 1, 2016, the expenses of this  
118 agency shall be defrayed by appropriation from the State General  
119 Fund and all user charges and fees authorized under this section  
120 shall be deposited into the State General Fund as authorized by  
121 law.

122 (13) From and after July 1, 2016, no state agency shall  
123 charge another state agency a fee, assessment, rent or other  
124 charge for services or resources received by authority of this  
125 section.

126 (14) The State Fire Academy is designated as an authorized  
127 training program for Emergency Medical Response and Emergency  
128 Medical Technician, and is authorized to provide initial and  
129 national continued competency program training, including  
130 Emergency Medical Responder, Emergency Medical Technician-Basic  
131 and Emergency Medical Technician-Advanced. The State Fire Academy  
132 shall be limited to a total of one hundred twenty (120) students  
133 per year \* \* \* Emergency Medical Technician-Basic and Emergency  
134 Medical Technician-Advanced training; however, no limitation shall  
135 apply to the number of Emergency Medical Responder students. The  
136 training program established by the State Fire Academy shall meet  
137 or exceed the requirements of the most current training program  
138 national standard curriculum as developed by the United States  
139 Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety  
140 Administration, and shall also meet the minimum testing and  
141 certification requirements established by the State Board of



142 Health. Successful graduates of the State Fire Academy Emergency  
143 Medical Response and Emergency Medical Technician training shall  
144 be eligible for certification by the State Board of Health for the  
145 training level achieved, provided that their training meets or  
146 exceeds the minimum testing and certification requirements  
147 established by the State Board of Health for these respective  
148 skills, and such certification may be obtained in coordination  
149 with the State Board of Health pursuant to Chapters 59 and 60,  
150 Title 41, Mississippi Code of 1972.

151         **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
152 and after July 1, 2022.

