

By: Representative Hood

To: Insurance

HOUSE BILL NO. 1371

1 AN ACT TO BRING FORWARD SECTIONS 45-11-203, 45-11-251 AND
2 45-11-253, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, WHICH PERTAIN TO MINIMUM
3 STANDARDS AND CERTIFICATION FOR FIREFIGHTERS, FOR PURPOSES OF
4 POSSIBLE AMENDMENT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

6 **SECTION 1.** Section 45-11-203, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 brought forward as follows:

8 45-11-203. (1) After January 1, 1991, no person shall be
9 employed as a full-time fire fighter by any local government fire
10 fighting unit for a period exceeding one (1) year, nor for a
11 cumulative time exceeding two thousand eight hundred (2,800)
12 compensated hours, unless that person is certified as completing
13 the mandatory training requirements in subsection (2). Any state
14 agency or political subdivision that employs a person as a fire
15 fighter who does not meet the requirements of subsection (2) of
16 this section is prohibited from paying the salary of such person,
17 and any person violating this subsection shall be personally
18 liable for making such payment. The Mississippi Fire Personnel
19 Minimum Standards and Certification Board may grant an extension



20 to individuals employed within the guidelines as established by
21 the board not to exceed an additional year. Fire fighters serving
22 as full-time employees prior to January 1, 1991, in a local fire
23 fighting unit shall not be required to meet the minimum
24 requirements in subsection (2).

25 (2) The uniform training standards for all paid fire
26 fighters shall consist of satisfactory completion of a training
27 program administered by the State Fire Academy or local
28 governments that have the proper facilities and have been
29 certified by the Mississippi Fire Personnel Minimum Standards and
30 Certification Board which shall utilize National Fire Protection
31 Association fire service professional qualification standards.

32 **SECTION 2.** Section 45-11-251, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
33 brought forward as follows:

34 45-11-251. (1) There is hereby created the Mississippi Fire
35 Personnel Minimum Standards and Certification Board. The board
36 shall consist of eleven (11) members. The Commissioner of
37 Insurance and the Director of the State Fire Academy shall serve
38 as ex officio members. The Director of the State Fire Academy
39 shall serve as secretary to the board. The Commissioner of
40 Insurance may appoint a designee to serve in his absence.

41 (2) Nine (9) members of the Mississippi Fire Personnel
42 Minimum Standards and Certification Board shall be selected as
43 follows:



44 (a) Two (2) full-time paid firefighters below the rank
45 of chief selected by the Mississippi Fire Fighters Association.
46 The initial term shall be staggered with one (1) member serving a
47 two-year term and one (1) member serving a three-year term. After
48 the expiration of the initial term, the term shall be for three
49 (3) years;

50 (b) One (1) full-time firefighter below the rank of
51 fire chief selected by the Professional Fire Fighters Association
52 of Mississippi;

53 (c) Three (3) career fire chiefs selected by the
54 Mississippi Fire Chiefs Association. The initial term shall be
55 staggered: one (1) member shall serve a term of one (1) year; one
56 (1) member shall serve a term of two (2) years; and one (1) member
57 shall serve a term of three (3) years. After the expiration of
58 the initial term, the term shall be for three (3) years;

59 (d) One (1) full-time paid certified fire instructor
60 selected by the Mississippi Fire Fighters Service Instructors
61 Association. The initial term shall be for one (1) year. After
62 the expiration of the initial term, the term shall be for three
63 (3) years;

64 (e) One (1) full-time paid fire investigator from a
65 paid department selected by the Mississippi Fire Investigators
66 Association. The initial term shall be for two (2) years. After
67 the expiration of the initial term, the term shall be for three
68 (3) years; and



69 (f) One (1) member of the volunteer fire service
70 selected by the Mississippi Fire Fighters Association. The
71 initial term shall be for three (3) years. After the expiration
72 of the initial term, the term shall be for three (3) years.

73 No member selected under this subsection shall serve more
74 than two (2) terms consecutively. Any member missing three (3)
75 consecutive meetings shall be deemed to have resigned from the
76 board. A vacancy prior to the expiration of a term shall be
77 filled by selection in the same manner and for the balance of the
78 unexpired term.

79 (3) During his term, a member of the board shall not serve
80 as a member of the State Fire Academy Advisory Board.

81 (4) The board shall select a chairman and vice chairman from
82 its membership.

83 (5) The Department of Insurance shall provide administrative
84 support for the board.

85 (6) Members of the Mississippi Fire Personnel Minimum
86 Standards and Certification Board who are not state employees
87 shall be entitled to a per diem compensation as provided in
88 Section 25-3-69, and to travel expenses as provided in Section
89 25-3-41. The provisions of this subsection shall apply to travel
90 necessary to attend board meetings, as well as other travel
91 authorized by the board and required in the performance of
92 official duties.



93 **SECTION 3.** Section 45-11-253, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
94 brought forward as follows:

95 45-11-253. The board shall:

96 (a) Establish minimum educational and training
97 standards for fire personnel.

98 (b) Certify persons as being qualified under Sections
99 45-11-251 and 45-11-253 to be fire personnel.

100 (c) Revoke certifications for cause and in the manner
101 provided in Sections 45-11-251 and 45-11-253.

102 (d) Establish minimum curriculum requirements for basic
103 and advanced courses and programs for schools operated by or for
104 the state or any political subdivision thereof for the specific
105 purpose of training fire personnel.

106 (e) Make recommendations concerning any matter within
107 its purview.

108 (f) Make such inspection and evaluation as may be
109 necessary to determine if governmental units are complying with
110 Sections 45-11-251 and 45-11-253 at cost to those units.

111 (g) Approve fire training schools for operation by or
112 for the state or any political subdivision thereof for the
113 specific purpose of training personnel.

114 (h) Upon the request of agencies, conduct surveys or
115 aid municipalities and counties to conduct surveys at cost to
116 those agencies through qualified public or private agencies and



117 assist in the implementation of any recommendations resulting from
118 such surveys.

119 (i) Upon request of training agencies, conduct general
120 and specific management surveys and studies of the operations of
121 the requesting agencies at cost to those agencies. The role of the
122 board under this subsection shall be that of consultant.

123 (j) Adopt and amend regulations consistent with law,
124 for its internal management and control of board programs.

125 (k) Enter into contracts or do such things as may be
126 necessary and incidental to the administration of Sections
127 45-11-251 and 45-11-253.

128 (l) Promulgate rules and regulations for the
129 administration of Sections 45-11-251 and 45-11-253, including the
130 authority to require the submission of reports and information by
131 fire service agencies.

132 **SECTION 4.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
133 and after July 1, 2022.

