

By: Senator(s) Michel, McLendon

To: Insurance

SENATE BILL NO. 2335

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 45-11-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REMOVE THE LIMITATION ON THE NUMBER OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONDER
3 STUDENTS THE STATE FIRE ACADEMY MAY TRAIN PER YEAR; AND FOR
4 RELATED 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 for * * * Emergency Medical Technician-Basic and
134 Emergency Medical Technician-Advanced training; however, no
135 limitation shall apply to the number of Emergency Medical
136 Responder students. The training program established by the State
137 Fire Academy shall meet or exceed the requirements of the most
138 current training program national standard curriculum as developed
139 by the United States Department of Transportation, National
140 Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and shall also meet the
141 minimum testing and certification requirements established by the



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

