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BILL



ANALYSIS

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Senate Bill 372 (as introduced 6-4-15)  
Sponsor: Senator Dale W. Zorn  
Committee: Regulatory Reform

Date Completed: 9-30-15

### **CONTENT**

**The bill would amend the Firefighters Training Council Act to require the State Fire Marshal to waive firefighter examination requirements and extend reciprocity certification to a firefighter from another state seeking to work as a firefighter in this State if the firefighter were certified in the other state after successfully completing training that met State standards. Additionally, the bill would delete a provision that allows the Firefighters Training Council to fine a fire department for the loss, damage, or late return of electronic training materials.**

Under the Act, the State Fire Marshal, with the approval of the Firefighters Training Council, must develop and administer an examination to determine a person's competency in regard to the knowledge and skill requirements for firefighters. The exam must be administered in two parts, Firefighter I and Firefighter II, based on the knowledge and skill requirements set forth in a national publication, "Standards for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications", National Fire Protection Association Standard No. 1001.

Within 12 months after a person is hired as a full-time firefighter, he or she must pass both Part 1 and Part 2 of the exam to be eligible for continued or permanent full-time employment as a firefighter. Within 24 months after a person is appointed as a volunteer or paid on-call firefighter, he or she must pass Part 1 of the exam to be eligible for continued volunteer or paid on-call service as a firefighter.

Under the bill, the State Fire Marshal would have to waive the examination requirements and extend reciprocity for a firefighter from another state sought to work in Michigan, upon verification that he or she was certified in his or her state after successfully completing a program that met or exceeded the standards set forth for Firefighter I and II in "Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications", National Fire Protection Association Standard No. 1001. The bill specifies that the presentation of records evidencing the required certification would automatically result in certification by this state.

Under the Act, the Council must develop and provide organized fire departments, upon request and at no charge, videotapes, digital video disks, or other electronic forms of video display to be used in the training of firefighters; the material may not require a practical demonstration. The bill instead would allow the Council to provide fire departments, upon request and at no charge, training material in an electronic format. Further, the bill would delete a provision that allows the Council to fine an organized fire department for the loss, damage, or late return of electronic training materials.

MCL 29.369

Legislative Analyst: Drew Krogulecki

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (which houses the Bureau of Fire Services), and a minor, but likely positive fiscal impact on local units of government. It is unknown how many firefighters from other states would be granted reciprocity in Michigan under the bill, but in those cases the employing fire department could realize savings related to training new hires. For reference, the Fire Fighter I and II group course offered through the Fire Fighter Training Council costs \$13,275 and consists of 295 instructional hours. Since the course is a group course, the entire cost would not be saved if a single new hire had reciprocity, but rather the fire department could either not send anyone to the training (and possibly save its share of the fee if multiple fire departments were involved), or send another firefighter instead.

Fiscal Analyst: Josh Sefton

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This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.