
DIGEST

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HB 425 Reengrossed

2020 Regular Session

Schexnayder

Abstract: Revises membership, powers, and duties of the La. Fire and Emergency Training Commission.

Present law designates Louisiana State University (LSU) as the state agency to conduct training for firemen on a statewide basis in which firemen from any and all duly constituted fire departments may participate. Proposed law also authorizes the participation of firemen from private or commercial industrial and allied emergency services and otherwise retains present law.

Present law creates the La. Fire and Emergency Training Commission and provides for the following nine commission members: state fire marshal or his designee; LSU-Baton Rouge chancellor or his designee; two members selected by La. State Firemen's Assoc.; two members selected by La. Fire Chiefs Assoc.; two members selected by Professional Firefighters' Assoc. of La.; and one member who is a La. citizen with knowledge and experience in the field of fire and emergency services appointed by the governor.

Proposed law increases membership from 9 to 11 by adding the following two members to be appointed by the governor upon the commission's recommendation:

- (1) One member who is currently in active service with a La. fire department and has been active for at least 10 years.
- (2) One member who has knowledge and experience and is active in the field of industrial fire and emergency services.

Present law requires the commission to provide advice and guidance to LSU relative to specific matters. Proposed law also requires the commission to provide recommendations and makes changes to the specific matters as follows:

- (1) Present law provides for hiring an executive director, including review of candidates for the position, fixing the salary, and defining the duties. Proposed law provides for the commission to make a recommendation relative to the final selection of a candidate and adds that the commission shall be given at least 60 days after the posting of a vacancy in this position to recommend a candidate to fill the vacancy.
- (2) Present law provides for employment of clerical, technical, legal, and other assistance for the conduct of LSU's functions pursuant to present law. Proposed law adds the employment of

management and other directors and the defining of duties; also adds that the commission shall be given at least 60 days after the posting of any vacancy in these positions to recommend a candidate to fill the vacancy.

- (3) Present law provides for all aspects of the conduct of fire and emergency training, including curricula. Proposed law adds training programs and performance of LSU's functions.
- (4) Present law provides for prioritization of training throughout the state. Proposed law retains present law.
- (5) Present law provides for the annual budget for the conduct of LSU's functions, including management of funds and recovery of the cost of classes. Proposed law adds that LSU shall submit the proposed annual budget for the program to the commission for review prior to final adoption.
- (6) Present law provides for recommendations to be made by LSU to the legislature relative to LSU's functions. Proposed law retains present law.
- (7) Proposed law adds the acceptance of any and all appropriate donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services and their receipt, use, and disposal; also provides that the commission shall be apprised of all grant opportunities available to the Fire and Emergency Training Institute (FETI) and all grant applications submitted on behalf of FETI individually or in conjunction with other LSU institutions or programs.

(Amends R.S. 40:1541)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the original bill:

1. Remove proposed law provision prohibiting a vote by the chancellor (or his designee) unless needed for a tiebreaker.
2. Remove proposed law provision granting the commission final authority on the approval of certain matters.
3. Add a requirement that LSU submit the proposed annual budget for the firemen training program to the commission.
4. Add a requirement that the commission be given an opportunity to recommend a candidate to fill an employment vacancy.
5. Add a requirement that the commission be apprised relative to grant opportunities available to FETI.
6. Remove proposed law provision transferring operation and jurisdiction of the firemen training film library from LSU to the commission.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make a technical change to an association's name from La. State Fire Chief's Assoc. to La. Fire Chiefs Assoc.