

Regular Session, 2003

HOUSE BILL NO. 1153

BY REPRESENTATIVES DOWNER, R. CARTER, FAUCHEUX, TOOMY,
AND WELCH

FIRE PROTECTION: Enacts the Louisiana Fire Service Bill of Rights

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16

AN ACT

To enact R.S. 33:2012, to enact the Louisiana Fire Service Bill of Rights; and
to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 33:2012 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§2012. Fire Service Bill of Rights

A. This Section may be referred to as the "Louisiana Fire Service Bill of Rights".

B. There is hereby established a Fire Service Bill of Rights to promote that the rights of the fire service in Louisiana are safeguarded and protected. This Fire Service Bill of Rights consists of a statement, in nontechnical terms, of the rights of members of the fire service and obligations to them. The rights afforded members of the fire service are available insofar as they are implemented in accordance with the Constitution of Louisiana and Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, the administrative rules of state and local governmental entities, and the

1 budgetary consideration of state and local governmental entities. To
2 this end, this Louisiana Fire Service Bill of Rights is enacted.

3 C. The Louisiana Fire Service Bill of Rights promotes the
4 following rights for the fire service in Louisiana:

5 (1) Promotes the fire service right to be recognized as first
6 responder to all domestic emergencies.

7 (2) Promotes the fire service right to be adequately protected
8 from the dangers associated with emergency response.

9 (3) Promotes the fire service right to have their families
10 provided for in the event of tragic death related to performance on the
11 job.

12 (4) Promotes the fire service right to be educated in the latest
13 fire and life safety sciences.

14 (5) Promotes the fire service right to be provided with state-of-
15 the-art equipment and apparatus to better handle all emergency
16 situations.

17 (6) Promotes the fire service right to share innovative fire and
18 life safety programs that have proven successful across the nation.

19 (7) Promotes the fire service right to fully understand and be
20 able to effectively respond to incidents involving the transportation,
21 storage, and use of hazardous materials.

22 (8) Promotes the fire service right to be fully informed of the
23 threat of contracting infectious diseases during the course of life safety
24 activities.

1 (9) Promotes the fire service right to expect that the people of
2 Louisiana will become full partners in the struggle to preserve life and
3 property from the ravages of fire and other disasters.

4 (10) Promotes the fire service right to celebrate the proud
5 history of the American fire and emergency services personnel and the
6 sacrifices they have made for communities across the nation.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument.

Downer, et al.

HB No. 1153

Abstract: Enacts the Louisiana Fire Service Bill of Rights.

Proposed law establishes a Fire Service Bill of Rights that promotes that the rights of the fire service in La. are safeguarded and protected. Provides that the Fire Service Bill of Rights consists of a statement, in nontechnical terms, of the rights of members of the fire service and obligations to them and that the rights afforded are available insofar as they are implemented in accordance with the constitution and laws of the state of Louisiana, administrative rules of state and local government, and budgetary considerations of state and local governments.

Proposed law provides that the La. Fire Service Bill of Rights promotes the following rights for the fire service in the state:

- (1) The right to be recognized as first responder to all domestic emergencies.
- (2) The right to be adequately protected from the dangers associated with emergency response.
- (3) The right to have their families provided for in the event of tragic death related to performance on the job.
- (4) The right to be educated in the latest fire and life safety sciences.
- (5) The right to be provided with state-of-the-art equipment and apparatus to better handle all emergency situations.
- (6) The right to share innovative fire and life safety programs that have proven successful across the nation.

- (7) The right to fully understand and be able to effectively respond to incidents involving the transportation, storage, and use of hazardous materials.
- (8) The right to be fully informed of the threat of contracting infectious diseases during the course of life safety activities.
- (9) The right to expect that the people of La. will become full partners in the struggle to preserve life and property from the ravages of fire and other disasters.
- (10) The right to celebrate the proud history of the American fire and emergency services personnel and the sacrifices they have made for communities across the nation.

(Adds R.S. 33:2012)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Judiciary to the original bill.

1. Changed proposed law ~~from~~ guaranteeing the rights of the fire service in Louisiana to promoting the rights of the fire service.
2. Clarified that the rights afforded members of the fire service are available and implemented with consideration given to the budgetary concerns of state and local government.
3. Restricted the promotion of the right to have a member's family provided for in the event of tragic death to a tragic death related to performance on the job.