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## DIGEST

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HB 425 Original

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 in-service 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:

- (1) State fire marshal or his designee.
- (2) LSU-Baton Rouge chancellor or his designee. Proposed law prohibits such member from voting except in the event of a tie vote of the members present and voting.
- (3) Two members selected by La. State Firemen's Assoc.
- (4) Two members selected by La. State Fire Chief's Assoc.
- (5) Two members selected by Professional Firefighters' Assoc. of La.
- (6) 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 who shall be appointed by the governor upon recommendation of the commission:

- (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 LSU to conduct training programs and perform its functions as provided in present law with the advice and guidance of the commission. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law requires the commission to advise and provide guidance to LSU relative to the conduct of training programs and performance of LSU's functions pursuant to present law. Proposed law deletes this requirement.

Present law requires the commission to provide advice and guidance to LSU relative to specific matters. Proposed law adds that the commission shall retain final authority to approve such matters. Proposed law makes the following changes relative to these matters:

- (1) Present law provides for hiring an executive director, including review of candidates for the position and fixing the salary of and defining the duties of the executive director. Proposed law adds final selection of a candidate.
- (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 LSU's duties.
- (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 retains present law.
- (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.

Present law provides for the establishment of a library of training films to be used by fire departments and brigades. Provides for the library to be operated by and under the jurisdiction of the firemen training program of LSU. Proposed law instead provides for the library to be operated by and under the jurisdiction of the commission.

(Amends R.S. 40:1541 and 1547(C))