

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2122

4  
5 By: Representative Hammer  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE  
9 ASSISTANCE TO FIRE DEPARTMENTS THAT IMPROVE INSURANCE  
10 SERVICES OFFICE RATING; TO EXPAND THE DUTIES OF THE  
11 ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT; AND FOR  
12 OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

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15 TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE  
16 ASSISTANCE TO FIRE DEPARTMENTS THAT  
17 IMPROVE INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE RATING;  
18 AND TO EXPAND THE DUTIES OF THE ARKANSAS  
19 DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.  
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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25 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Fire Rating Reduction  
26 Plan Pilot Program.

27 (a) Beginning in the 2018 fiscal year, a fire department that does not  
28 certify for Act 833 of 1991 moneys over the next five (5) years shall allow  
29 for the funding of a fire rating reduction plan through a pilot program  
30 established under this section.

31 (b)(1) The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management shall develop  
32 by rule and oversee the Fire Rating Reduction Plan Pilot Program.

33 (2) A fire department that is part of the program shall operate  
34 and utilize available funds to improve the fire department's public  
35 protection classification system rating to at least a 6 or better.

36 (3)(A) The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management shall



1 select counties for the program from eligible counties and fire departments  
 2 in each county.

3 (B) The selection criteria for a county to be considered  
 4 under subdivision (b)(3)(A) of this section include:

5 (i) Number of municipal fire departments located in  
 6 the county;

7 (ii) Number of volunteer fire departments located in  
 8 the county;

9 (iii) Number of nonprofit fire departments located  
 10 in the county;

11 (iv) The availability and accessibility of fire  
 12 protection services, including firefighting machinery and equipment and the  
 13 number of necessary firefighters to combat fires; and

14 (v) The geographic location of the fire departments  
 15 in the county and in the state.

16 (c) A fire department participating in the program shall:

17 (1) Apply for grants under the program; and

18 (2) Operate to improve the fire department's public protection  
 19 classification system rating.

20 (d) The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management shall promulgate  
 21 rules for implementation of the program which shall make available funds for  
 22 the program to be used in defraying the initial cost of equipment, repair,  
 23 furnishing, and adaptation of vehicles as fire trucks, or other firefighting  
 24 machinery and equipment, and to make grants, as provided in this section, to  
 25 counties participating in the program to provide a portion of the moneys  
 26 required to enable the fire departments to acquire vehicles and other  
 27 firefighting machinery and equipment from the Arkansas Department of  
 28 Emergency Management or personnel or services necessary to prepare for a  
 29 public protection classification rating review.

30 (e) The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management shall adopt rules  
 31 to administer the program for eligible counties, including without  
 32 limitation, rules that address:

33 (1) Applications;

34 (2) Administration; and

35 (3) Reporting requirements.

36 (f)(1) A county participating in the program shall evaluate the

1 effectiveness of the program in each participating fire department located in  
2 the county by measuring:

3 (A) Costs associated with administering and operating the  
4 fire department after receiving additional firefighting machinery and  
5 equipment under the program; and

6 (B) The amount of improvement of a participating fire  
7 department's public protection classification system rating level.

8 (2)(A) The fire department shall submit an annual report to the  
9 Arkansas Department of Emergency Management.

10 (B) The annual report described in subdivision (f)(2)(A)  
11 of this section shall be filed by January 31 of each year.

12 (g) The program shall expire on July 1, 2021, unless it is continued  
13 by the General Assembly.

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