

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021

# A Bill

SENATE BILL 678

4  
5 By: Senator A. Clark  
6 By: Representative Warren

## For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO REQUIRE A FIRE DEPARTMENT APPLICANT TO  
10 SUBMIT TO A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK; AND FOR OTHER  
11 PURPOSES.

## Subtitle

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14 TO REQUIRE A FIRE DEPARTMENT APPLICANT TO  
15 SUBMIT TO A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 22, Subchapter 1, is  
22 amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 20-22-101. Criminal background check.

24 (a) As used in this section, "fire department" means any fire  
25 department that employs a firefighter on a full-time, part-time, or volunteer  
26 duty status.

27 (b) A fire department shall require a criminal background check of an  
28 applicant that conforms to applicable federal standards and includes the  
29 taking of fingerprints.

30 (c) The criminal background check shall be performed through the  
31 Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police and the  
32 Federal Bureau of Investigation.

33 (d) Prior to a criminal background check, the applicant shall sign a  
34 release authorizing the criminal background check.

35 (e) The fire department or the applicant shall pay the fees associated  
36 with the criminal background check.



1       (f) The results of the criminal background check shall be used for the  
2 determination of the fitness or suitability of the applicant as a  
3 firefighter.

4       (g) The criminal background information of an applicant shall be  
5 treated as confidential.

6       (h) A criminal background check obtained under this section shall be  
7 destroyed within six (6) months of receipt of the criminal background check.

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