



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 1017

LCO No. 3727



Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:

(PS)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE ON THE SHORTAGE OF
FIREFIGHTERS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
PERSONNEL IN THE STATE.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
2 to study the shortage of firefighters and emergency medical services
3 personnel in the state. The task force shall:

4 (1) Examine the factors associated with the shortage of firefighters
5 and emergency medical services personnel in the state;

6 (2) Study ways to alleviate such shortage, which shall include, but is
7 not limited to, an examination of (A) providing an income tax credit for
8 volunteer firefighters, (B) developing a pipeline from colleges and
9 universities into firefighting and emergency medical services, (C)
10 offering tuition incentives for volunteer firefighters and emergency
11 medical services personnel, (D) streamlining certification and
12 recertification processes for firefighters and emergency medical services
13 personnel, and (E) providing sustainable and consistent state funding
14 for training of firefighters and emergency medical services personnel;

15 and

16 (3) Make recommendations to address such shortage.

17 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

18 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
19 one of whom is a municipal chief executive officer;

20 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of
21 whom is a municipal chief executive officer;

22 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of
23 Representatives, who is a firefighter;

24 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who provides
25 emergency medical services;

26 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
27 Representatives, who provides emergency medical services;

28 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a
29 firefighter;

30 (7) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection,
31 or the commissioner's designee;

32 (8) The Commissioner of Public Health, or the commissioner's
33 designee; and

34 (9) Three persons appointed by the Governor.

35 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),
36 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member
37 of the General Assembly.

38 (d) All initial appointments to the task force shall be made not later
39 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall
40 be filled by the appointing authority.

41 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro
42 tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from
43 among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule
44 the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty
45 days after the effective date of this section.

46 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
47 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety
48 and security shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

49 (g) Not later than January 1, 2024, the task force shall submit a report
50 on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of
51 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public
52 safety and security, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a
53 of the general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it
54 submits such report or January 1, 2024, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a task force to examine and make recommendations to address the shortage of firefighters and emergency medical services personnel in the state.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]