



Senate Bill No. 1017

Special Act No. 23-1

**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:

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

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

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

(3) Make recommendations to address such shortage.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(9) Three persons appointed by the Governor.

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

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

(e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro

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tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

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

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