

SENATE BILL 1809

By Jackson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-21-401; Section 50-1-307 and Section 50-1-309, relative to rescue squad workers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 4-21-401, is amended by deleting subdivision (d)(2).

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-1-309, is amended by deleting the section and substituting instead the following:

(a)

(1) Notwithstanding § 50-1-307, an employee who is an active volunteer firefighter or volunteer rescue squad worker may be permitted to leave work in order to respond to fire or emergency calls during the employee's regular hours of employment without loss of pay, vacation time, sick leave, or earned overtime accumulation. The employee may be permitted to take off the next scheduled work period within twelve (12) hours following the response as a vacation day or sick leave day without loss of pay, if the employee assisted in fighting the fire or responding to the emergency for more than four (4) hours. If the employee is not entitled to a vacation day or sick leave day, then the employee may be permitted to take off the next scheduled work period within twelve (12) hours following the response without pay.

(2) In addition to subdivision (a)(1), an employee who is an active volunteer firefighter or volunteer rescue squad worker and who worked for more than four (4) hours the prior day or night as a volunteer firefighter or rescue

squad worker in an emergency may be permitted to take off the next scheduled work period within twelve (12) hours following the emergency as a vacation day or sick leave day without loss of pay. If the employee is not entitled to a vacation day or sick leave day, then the employee may be permitted to take off the next scheduled work period within twelve (12) hours following the emergency without pay.

(b) An employer may require an employee as described in subsection (a) to submit a written statement from the chief of the volunteer fire department or supervisor of the volunteer rescue squad verifying that the employee responded to a fire or emergency or was on-call, and specifying the date, time, and duration of the response or emergency.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-1-307(b), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting:

(b) Except as provided in § 50-1-309, an employer may charge against an employee's regular pay the time that an employee who is a volunteer firefighter loses from employment because of the employee's response to an emergency.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.