

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7878

To amend section 8143b of title 5, United States Code, to include in the time as a firefighter employed by a State when that firefighter is later reclassified as a Federal employee, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 5, 2024

Mr. PAPPAS (for himself, Mrs. KIM of California, and Mr. GALLEG0) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend section 8143b of title 5, United States Code, to include in the time as a firefighter employed by a State when that firefighter is later reclassified as a Federal employee, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Ensuring Equity for
5 Firefighters Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CERTAIN STATE SERVICE APPLICABLE FOR FED-**
2 **ERAL FIREFIGHTERS WORKER'S COMPENSA-**
3 **TION.**

4 Section 8143b(b) of title 5, United States Code, is
5 amended by adding at the end the following new para-
6 graph:

7 “(4) RECLASSIFIED FIREFIGHTERS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of
9 determining the aggregate number of years an
10 individual has been employed as an employee in
11 fire protection activities under paragraph (1),
12 all periods in which such individual is or was
13 employed in a reclassified State position are
14 deemed to be periods in which such individual
15 was employed as an employee in fire protection
16 activities if such individual is or was appointed
17 to a position as an employee in fire protection
18 activities established by the Federal Govern-
19 ment to perform the duties and responsibilities
20 performed for the Federal Government by a re-
21 classified State position.

22 “(B) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

23 “(i) COVERED STATE EMPLOYEE PO-
24 SITION.—The term ‘covered State em-
25 ployee position’ means a position in which

1 the individual holding such position is em-
2 ployed as a covered State employee.

3 “(ii) EMPLOYED AS A COVERED
4 STATE EMPLOYEE.—The term ‘employed
5 as a covered State employee’ means an in-
6 dividual employed by a State or political
7 subdivision thereof as a firefighter (includ-
8 ing a wildland firefighter), paramedic,
9 emergency medical technician, rescue
10 worker, ambulance personnel, or hazardous
11 material worker who—

12 “(I) is trained in fire suppres-
13 sion;

14 “(II) has the legal authority and
15 responsibility to engage in fire sup-
16 pression;

17 “(III) is engaged in the preven-
18 tion, control, or extinguishment of
19 fires or response to emergency situa-
20 tions in which life, property, or the
21 environment is at risk, including the
22 prevention, control, suppression, or
23 management of wildland fires; and

24 “(IV) performs the activities de-
25 scribed in subclause (III) as a pri-

1 mary responsibility of the job of the
2 employee.

3 “(iii) RECLASSIFIED STATE POSI-
4 TION.—The term ‘reclassified State posi-
5 tion’ means a covered State employee posi-
6 tion for which the Federal Government es-
7 tablishes or established a position as an
8 employee in fire protection activities to
9 perform the duties and responsibilities per-
10 formed for the Federal Government by
11 such covered State employee position.”.

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