

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H3/14/17
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 2122

By: Representative Hammer

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO FIRE DEPARTMENTS THAT IMPROVE INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE RATING; TO EXPAND THE DUTIES OF THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO FIRE DEPARTMENTS THAT IMPROVE INSURANCE SERVICES OFFICE RATING; AND TO EXPAND THE DUTIES OF THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

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

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Fire Rating Reduction Plan Pilot Program.

(a) Beginning in the 2018 fiscal year, if a fire department has not certified for Acts 1991, No. 833, moneys for over five (5) years, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State shall transfer the Acts 1991, No. 833, moneys that are not certified to the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management to be deposited into the Miscellaneous Agencies Fund Account to be used exclusively for the Fire Rating Reduction Plan Pilot Program established under this section.

(b)(1) The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management shall develop by rule and oversee the Fire Rating Reduction Plan Pilot Program.

(2) A fire department that is part of the program shall operate



and utilize available funds to improve the fire department's public protection classification system rating to at least a 6 or better.

(3)(A) The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management shall select counties for the program from eligible counties and fire departments in each county.

(B) The selection criteria for a county to be considered under subdivision (b)(3)(A) of this section include:

(i) Number of municipal fire departments located in the county;

(ii) Number of volunteer fire departments located in the county;

(iii) Number of nonprofit fire departments located in the county;

(iv) The availability and accessibility of fire protection services, including firefighting machinery and equipment and the number of necessary firefighters to combat fires; and

(v) The geographic location of the fire departments in the county and in the state.

(c) A fire department participating in the program shall:

(1) Apply for grants under the program; and

(2) Operate to improve the fire department's public protection classification system rating.

(d) The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management shall promulgate rules for implementation of the program which shall make available funds for the program to be used in defraying the initial cost of equipment, repair, furnishing, and adaptation of vehicles as fire trucks, or other firefighting machinery and equipment, and to make grants, as provided in this section, to counties participating in the program to provide a portion of the moneys required to enable the fire departments to acquire vehicles and other firefighting machinery and equipment from the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management or personnel or services necessary to prepare for a public protection classification rating review.

(e) The Arkansas Department of Emergency Management shall adopt rules to administer the program for eligible counties, including without limitation, rules that address:

(1) Applications;

(2) Administration; and

(3) Reporting requirements.

(f)(1) A county participating in the program shall evaluate the effectiveness of the program in each participating fire department located in the county by measuring:

(A) Costs associated with administering and operating the fire department after receiving additional firefighting machinery and equipment under the program; and

(B) The amount of improvement of a participating fire department's public protection classification system rating level.

(2)(A) The fire department shall submit an annual report to the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management.

(B) The annual report described in subdivision (f)(2)(A) of this section shall be filed by January 31 of each year.

(g) The program shall expire on July 1, 2021, unless it is continued by the General Assembly.

/s/Hammer