

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

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

SENATE BILL 678

By: Senator A. Clark
By: Representative Warren

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE A FIRE DEPARTMENT APPLICANT TO
SUBMIT TO A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE A FIRE DEPARTMENT APPLICANT TO
SUBMIT TO A CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK.

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

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 20, Chapter 22, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

20-22-101. Criminal background check.

(a) As used in this section, "fire department" means any fire department that employs a firefighter on a full-time, part-time, or volunteer duty status.

(b) A fire department shall require a criminal background check of an applicant that conforms to applicable federal standards and includes the taking of fingerprints.

(c) The criminal background check shall be performed through the Identification Bureau of the Division of Arkansas State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(d) Prior to a criminal background check, the applicant shall sign a release authorizing the criminal background check.

(e) The fire department or the applicant shall pay the fees associated with the criminal background check.



(f) The results of the criminal background check shall be used for the determination of the fitness or suitability of the applicant as a firefighter.

(g) The criminal background information of an applicant shall be treated as confidential.

(h) A criminal background check obtained under this section shall be destroyed within six (6) months of receipt of the criminal background check.