

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 696

By: Senator A. Clark

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

TO REQUIRE A FIRE DEPARTMENT APPLICANT TO
SUBMIT TO A 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) The Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board shall require a criminal background check of a fire department 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 fire department applicant shall sign a release authorizing the criminal background check.

(e) The fire department or the fire department 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 fire department applicant



as a firefighter.

(g) The criminal background information of a fire department applicant shall be treated as confidential.

(h) Information received by a fire department pursuant to a criminal background check obtained under this section shall be destroyed by the fire department within six (6) months of receipt of the information.

(i) The Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board shall promulgate rules for the requesting and use of criminal background checks under this section.