

HB26 INTRODUCED



1 HB26
2 NCNXJ8-1
3 By Representatives Hulsey, Lovvorn, Reynolds, Bedsole,
4 Treadaway, Rigsby
5 RFD: Public Safety and Homeland Security
6 First Read: 05-Feb-24
7 2024 Regular Session



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SYNOPSIS:

Under existing law, fire-protection personnel undergo training prior to permanent employment.

This bill would require that pre-employment training for fire-protection personnel include training on interacting with individuals with sensory needs or invisible disabilities.

Under existing law, certified volunteer firefighters undergo training prior to certification.

This bill would require pre-certification training for volunteer firefighters to include training on interacting with individuals with sensory needs or invisible disabilities.

This bill would require each fire-protection personnel and certified volunteer firefighter to undergo annual training on interacting with individuals with sensory needs or invisible disabilities.

This bill would exclude non-certified volunteer firefighters and employees of the Alabama State Forestry Commission from training requirements related to interacting with individuals with sensory needs or invisible disabilities.

This bill would allow non-certified volunteer firefighters to voluntarily undergo training about interacting with individuals with sensory needs or



HB26 INTRODUCED

29 invisible disabilities.

30 This bill would also require the Alabama
31 Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education
32 Commission to collaborate with a nonprofit company to
33 provide the training without compensation.

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A BILL

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TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

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40 Relating to the Alabama Firefighters' Personnel
41 Standards and Education Commission; to amend Section 36-32-7,
42 Code of Alabama 1975; to require existing pre-employment and
43 pre-certification training for certain fire-protection
44 personnel and certified volunteer firefighters to include
45 training on interacting with individuals with sensory needs or
46 invisible disabilities; to require that certain
47 fire-protection personnel and certified volunteer firefighters
48 undergo annual training related to interacting with
49 individuals with sensory needs or invisible disabilities; to
50 require the Alabama Firefighters' Personnel Standards and
51 Education Commission to collaborate with a nonprofit company
52 to provide the training.

53 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

54 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as
55 the Abram Colin Act.

56 Section 2. Section 36-32-7, Code of Alabama 1975, is



HB26 INTRODUCED

57 amended to read as follows:

58 "§36-32-7

59 (a) Applicability. The minimum standards provided in
60 this section shall apply to trainees who are to be employed as
61 fire-protection personnel by a public fire-fighting agency.
62 ~~No~~A city or fire-fighting agency ~~which~~ that provides fire
63 protection to the public ~~shall~~ may not permanently employ any
64 trainee as fire-protection personnel who has not met the
65 requirements of this section. ~~Provided, however, no~~ A fire
66 prevention inspector, fire protection engineer, public fire
67 and life safety educator, public safety dispatcher, or
68 ~~person~~ individual whose duties are solely clerical or
69 secretarial in nature employed as fire-protection personnel by
70 the fire-fighting agency of any Class 1 municipality ~~shall~~
71 ~~be~~ is not required to meet the minimum physical requirements as
72 a trainee for firefighter as prescribed by the commission.

73 (b) Employment and qualifications. The trainee
74 ~~shall~~ must be certified by a licensed practicing physician as
75 satisfactory by the appointing authority designated as being
76 in good health and physically fit for the performance of his
77 or her duties as a firefighter and ~~shall~~ must meet the
78 employment qualifications of the appointing authority.

79 (c) Training.

80 (1) FIRE-PROTECTION PERSONNEL. Prior to permanent
81 employment, or a period not exceeding 12 months after the date
82 of employment, the trainee ~~shall have met~~ must meet the
83 requirements for certification as prescribed by the
84 commission. Training shall be given by an instructor certified



HB26 INTRODUCED

85 by the Alabama Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education
86 Commission and the training may be administered within the
87 department in which the applicant seeks to serve, if the
88 department meets the requirements of the commission for a
89 training center. Upon the completion of training, the
90 commission shall administer a comprehensive written test to
91 each applicant~~, and~~ and each applicant must pass the test as a
92 condition of completion of ~~such~~the training.

93 (2) VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER. A volunteer firefighter may
94 be certified by the commission as a volunteer firefighter if
95 the volunteer firefighter ~~shall have~~ has met the training
96 requirements prescribed by the commission. ~~Provided, the~~ The
97 training ~~is~~ must be conducted by an instructor certified by
98 and in facilities approved by the commission. The training
99 need not be during continuous sessions but may be scheduled at
100 different intervals during a period not exceeding 24 months
101 for a total of 160 hours. This subdivision shall not be
102 construed ~~as~~ to mandate training for volunteer firefighters,
103 except for purposes of certification.

104 (d) (1) Beginning January 1, 2025, the Alabama
105 Firefighters' Personnel Standards and Education Commission
106 shall require both of the following:

107 a. The training required by subsection (c) for
108 volunteer firefighters seeking certification and fire
109 protection personnel must include at least one hour of
110 training on interacting with individuals with sensory needs or
111 invisible disabilities.

112 b. That each fire-protection personnel and certified



HB26 INTRODUCED

113 volunteer firefighter must annually complete one hour of
114 training on interacting with individuals with sensory needs or
115 invisible disabilities.

116 (2) The Alabama Firefighters' Personnel Standards and
117 Education Commission shall collaborate with a nonprofit
118 company that provides training on individuals with sensory
119 needs or invisible disabilities to administer the training
120 required by this subsection. The company shall provide the
121 required training related to individuals with sensory needs or
122 invisible disabilities without compensation. The training may
123 be provided in person or online.

124 (3)a. The training requirements of subdivision (1) do
125 not apply to volunteer firefighters who are not certified or
126 seeking certification or employees of the Alabama State
127 Forestry Commission.

128 b. Volunteer firefighters who are not certified or
129 seeking certification may elect to participate in the training
130 required under subdivision (1). If at least two-thirds of
131 active roster volunteer fire-protection personnel at a
132 volunteer fire department have completed the training required
133 under subdivision (1), at the request of the volunteer
134 department, the Alabama Firefighters' Personnel Standards and
135 Education Commission shall collaborate with the same nonprofit
136 company as provided in subdivision (2) to provide the
137 volunteer department with any materials that are provided to
138 paid fire-protection personnel who completed the training.

139 (4) The commission shall ensure the company chosen to
140 administer the training annually reviews and updates the



HB26 INTRODUCED

141 training to include changes and trends relating to individuals
142 with sensory needs or invisible disabilities."

143 Section 3. This act shall become effective January 1,
144 2025.