



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Committee Bill No. 5455

LCO No. 5704



* 0 5 7 0 4 H B 0 5 4 5 5 P S *

Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

Introduced by:
(PS)

AN ACT CONCERNING QUALIFIED FOREST FIRE FIGHTERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 23-37 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

3 (a) State forest fire control personnel and district and deputy fire
4 wardens shall, under the supervision of the State Forest Fire Warden,
5 use all necessary means to prevent and extinguish forest fires.

6 (b) Such state forest fire control personnel shall assist the fire chief
7 or the fire officer-in-charge in the control and direction of all persons
8 and apparatus while engaged in extinguishing forest fires in their
9 respective districts, or in other districts under the instructions of the
10 State Forest Fire Warden.

11 (c) Such state forest fire control personnel and fire wardens may
12 destroy fences, plow land or, in an emergency, close roads, with or
13 without detours, and set backfires to hasten the control of any fire.

14 [(d) Such state forest fire control personnel may summon any
15 resident of the state between the ages of eighteen and fifty years to
16 assist in extinguishing fires, and may also require the use of

17 equipment, motor vehicles and other property needed for such
18 purposes. Any person so summoned, who is physically able, who
19 refuses or neglects to assist or to allow the use of equipment, motor
20 vehicles or other material or property, or wilfully interferes with or
21 hinders any warden or other person having authority under this
22 section, shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars.]

23 (d) If the state forest fire warden determines that additional state
24 forest fire control personnel are required to assist in extinguishing a
25 forest fire in this state, the state forest fire warden may temporarily
26 supplement state forest fire control personnel with temporary
27 emergency workers who meet the training and qualification
28 requirements of the National Wildfire Coordinating Group's National
29 Incident Management System: Wildland Fire Qualification System
30 Guide, as amended from time to time. The Department of
31 Administrative Services shall assist the state fire warden in developing
32 appropriate classifications for such temporary emergency workers.

33 (e) No action for trespass shall lie against any person crossing or
34 working upon lands of another to extinguish fire or for investigation
35 thereof.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2019	23-37

Statement of Purpose:

To allow the state forest fire warden to supplement existing staff resources with individuals who meet certain federal forest fire fighter training and qualification requirements.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. BUCKBEE, 67th Dist.

H.B. 5455