

HOUSE BILL 1246

By Curtiss

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,
Chapter 24, Part 1, relative to minimum training
requirements for firefighters.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 24, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

Section 4-24-112.

(a) Any fulltime, part-time, or volunteer firefighter hired or accepted as a
firefighter on or after July 1, 2009, by a fire department recognized under title 68,
chapter 102, part 3, must meet the following minimum training requirements:

(1) The firefighter must have previously completed or must
complete after joining the fire department a minimum of sixteen (16)
hours of initial training developed by the Tennessee fire service and
codes enforcement academy in firefighting procedures and techniques
before being allowed to actively fight a fire; and

(2) Within thirty-six (36) months after hire or acceptance date as a
firefighter, the firefighter must have completed, or must complete after
joining the fire department, the "basic and live firefighting" course offered
by the Tennessee fire service and codes enforcement academy, or an
equivalent course approved by the Tennessee commission on firefighting
personnel standards and education.

(b) The following firefighters are exempt from the training requirements of
subsection (a):

(1) Any firefighter in the fire service on July 1, 2009, and who entered the fire service before June 30, 2004; and

(2) Any firefighter who is certified by a medical doctor as medically or physically unable to complete the training requirements; however, the fire department may not allow these firefighters to engage in active fire fighting operations.

(c) Any firefighter who is certified by the fire department's chief officer that they will not operate within an environment determined to be immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) is exempt from the "basic and live firefighting" portion of the training referenced in subsection (a)(2).

(d) Any firefighter in the fire service on July 1, 2009, and who was hired or accepted as a firefighter between July 1, 2004, and June 30, 2009, has until July 1, 2012, to show proof of completion of the minimum training requirements of this section.

(e) The commission on firefighting personnel standards and education may issue any rules and take any other administrative action necessary to implement this section.

SECTION 2. For the purpose of promulgating rules and regulations, this act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect July 1, 2009, the public welfare requiring it.