

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to firefighter training certification;
 3 amending s. 633.35, F.S.; providing for issuance of a
 4 certificate of compliance of firefighter training by the
 5 Division of State Fire Marshal to a person who holds a
 6 federal firefighter certification; defining the term
 7 "federal firefighter certification"; amending s. 590.02,
 8 F.S., to conform; providing an effective date.

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10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12 Section 1. Subsections (4), (5), and (6) of section
 13 633.35, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (5),
 14 (6), and (7), respectively, and a new subsection (4) is added to
 15 said section, to read:

16 633.35 Firefighter training and certification.--

17 (4) The division shall issue a certificate to a person who
 18 has received a federal firefighter certification when the
 19 division has determined that the certification standards used by
 20 the United States Department of Defense to provide that
 21 certification to such person are at least equivalent to those
 22 required by the division for approved firefighter education and
 23 training programs in this state and when such person has
 24 satisfactorily complied with the other requirements of this
 25 chapter. As used in this subsection, the term "federal
 26 firefighter certification" means a certification issued by the
 27 United States Department of Defense to a person who has
 28 successfully completed the required courses and examinations of

29 the Military Fire Academy of the United States Department of
 30 Defense which is located in San Angelo, Texas. Before issuing a
 31 certificate under this subsection, the division must receive
 32 written verification from the United States Department of
 33 Defense confirming that such person has a federal firefighter
 34 certification that is currently valid and is in good standing
 35 with that department.

36 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 590.02, Florida
 37 Statutes, is amended to read:

38 590.02 Division powers, authority, and duties; liability;
 39 building structures; Florida Center for Wildfire and Forest
 40 Resources Management Training.--

41 (1) The division has the following powers, authority, and
 42 duties:

43 (a) To enforce ~~the provisions of~~ this chapter;

44 (b) To prevent, detect, suppress, and extinguish wildfires
 45 wherever they may occur on public or private land in this state
 46 and to do all things necessary in the exercise of such powers,
 47 authority, and duties;

48 (c) To provide firefighting crews, who shall be under the
 49 control and direction of the division and its designated agents;

50 (d) To appoint center managers, forest area supervisors,
 51 forestry program administrators, a forest protection bureau
 52 chief, a forest protection assistant bureau chief, a field
 53 operations bureau chief, deputy chiefs of field operations,
 54 district managers, senior forest rangers, investigators, forest
 55 rangers, firefighter rotorcraft pilots, and other employees who
 56 may, at the division's discretion, be certified as forestry

57 firefighters pursuant to s. 633.35 ~~s. 633.35(4)~~. Other
58 provisions of law notwithstanding, center managers, district
59 managers, forest protection assistant bureau chief, and deputy
60 chiefs of field operations shall have Selected Exempt Service
61 status in the state personnel designation;

62 (e) To develop a training curriculum for forestry
63 firefighters which must contain the basic volunteer structural
64 fire training course approved by the Florida State Fire College
65 of the Division of State Fire Marshal and a minimum of 250 hours
66 of wildfire training;

67 (f) To make rules to accomplish the purposes of this
68 chapter;

69 (g) To provide fire management services and emergency
70 response assistance and to set and charge reasonable fees for
71 performance of those services. Moneys collected from such fees
72 shall be deposited into the Incidental Trust Fund of the
73 division; and

74 (h) To require all state, regional, and local government
75 agencies operating aircraft in the vicinity of an ongoing
76 wildfire to operate in compliance with the applicable state
77 Wildfire Aviation Plan.

78 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2005.