

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to firefighting training; creating s. 633.381, F.S.; directing the Division of State Fire Marshal of the Department of Financial Services to establish a free firefighter training program; providing for eligibility for training under the program; specifying criteria for training courses; requiring the division to consult with the Firefighters Employment, Standards, and Training Council and the division's Bureau of Fire Standards and Training to develop the training courses; providing for reports, audits, and notice concerning the training program; authorizing rulemaking by the division; providing for distribution of funds by the division to certified training centers; providing for administration of such funds by an advisory committee composed of certain persons appointed by the council; authorizing use of moneys from the Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund; providing an appropriation; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Section 633.381, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

633.381 Free training for professional and volunteer firefighters.--

(1)(a) The division, in consultation with the council, shall establish a program to provide free training to professional and volunteer firefighters who work for an

29 employing agency. A firefighter who works for an employing
30 agency, for pay or as a volunteer, is eligible for advanced and
31 specialized training under this section if the training
32 increases the knowledge, skills, and abilities of the
33 firefighter. However, this training does not include basic
34 training which is required for certification under s. 633.35. A
35 firefighter is eligible under this section for the basic
36 firefighter training required for certification under s. 633.35
37 if the firefighter is an active volunteer with an employing
38 agency and enters into a binding agreement to remain with the
39 employing agency for at least 2 years after completing training.
40 If the firefighter departs before the expiration of the 2-year
41 period, he or she shall reimburse the council for the full cost
42 of the training.

43 (b) Each training course offered under the program shall
44 be of at least 4 hours' duration, shall be taught by an
45 instructor who is certified by the division's Bureau of Fire
46 Standards and Training, and shall be provided under the auspices
47 of a training center that is certified by the bureau.

48 (c) The training courses offered under the program shall
49 be developed in consultation with the bureau.

50 (d) Each course provided under the program shall be
51 audited each year and a report of the audit shall be furnished
52 to the bureau and to the Firefighters Safety and Health Task
53 Force.

54 (e) The division shall regularly provide notice of the
55 free training provided under the program to each employing
56 agency and state-certified firefighting training facility.

HB 219

2007

57 (f) Each training facility offering a training course
58 under the program shall provide the division with a semiannual
59 and year-end fiscal report.

60 (2) The division may adopt rules under ss. 120.536(1) and
61 120.54 to administer this section.

62 (3) The council shall appoint an administrative committee
63 for each training center that is certified by the division's
64 Bureau of Fire Standards and Training. The committee shall
65 consist of the director of the center and the fire chief of each
66 locality served by the center. The division shall distribute the
67 funds it receives to administer this section to each center on a
68 per capita basis according to the number of volunteer and
69 professional firefighters in the locality served by each
70 certified training center. The administrative committee of each
71 center shall administer the funds that are distributed to the
72 center to administer this section in the manner that best
73 provides for the training needs of the firefighters served by
74 the center.

75 (4) Moneys from the Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund may be
76 used to carry out the provisions of this section.

77 Section 2. The sum of \$15 million is appropriated from the
78 General Revenue Fund to the Division of State Fire Marshal in
79 the Department of Financial Services for the purpose of carrying
80 out the provisions of this act during the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

81 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.