



679442

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Senate	.	House
Comm: RCS	.	
03/23/2015	.	
	.	
	.	
	.	

---

The Committee on Banking and Insurance (Hukill) recommended the following:

**Senate Amendment (with title amendment)**

Delete everything after the enacting clause  
and insert:

Section 1. Subsection (36) is added to section 633.102,  
Florida Statutes, to read:

633.102 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term:  
(36) "Volunteer rural firefighter" means an individual who  
holds a current and valid Volunteer Rural Firefighter  
Certificate of Completion issued by the division under s.



679442

11 633.408 and provides fire extinguishment or fire prevention  
12 services through a fire service provider that:

13 (a) Is in existence on July 1, 2015, or that was in  
14 existence at any time between July 1, 2000 and July 1, 2015, and  
15 is subsequently reestablished after July 1, 2015; and

16 (b) Provides services in a municipality with a population  
17 of fewer than 12,000 or a county with a population of fewer than  
18 150,000.

19 Section 2. Paragraph (h) is added to subsection (1) of  
20 section 633.406, Florida Statutes, to read:

21 633.406 Classes of certification.-

22 (1) The division may award one or more of the following  
23 certificates:

24 (h) Volunteer Rural Firefighter Certificate of Completion.-  
25 A Volunteer Rural Firefighter Certificate of Completion may be  
26 awarded to a person who has satisfactorily completed the  
27 training requirements as prescribed by rule for a volunteer  
28 rural firefighter.

29 Section 3. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (1) of  
30 section 633.408, Florida Statutes, present paragraph (c) of that  
31 subsection is redesignated as paragraph (d), and subsection (5),  
32 is amended, to read:

33 633.408 Firefighter and volunteer firefighter training and  
34 certification.-

35 (1) The division shall establish by rule:

36 (a) A Minimum Standards Course and course examination to  
37 provide the training required to obtain a Firefighter  
38 Certificate of Compliance.

39 (b) Courses and course examinations to provide training



679442

40 required to obtain a Volunteer Firefighter Certificate of  
41 Completion or a Special Certificate of Compliance.

42 (c) Courses and course examinations to provide training  
43 required to obtain a Volunteer Rural Firefighter Certificate of  
44 Completion. The required courses may not exceed 160 hours and  
45 must include emergency medical responder training. The division  
46 shall award credit toward a certificate under this paragraph, as  
47 provided by rule adopted by the division, for any approved  
48 course successfully completed on or after July 1, 1970, which  
49 was creditable at the time of completion toward a certification  
50 under this chapter.

51 (5) The division shall issue a:

52 (a) Volunteer Firefighter Certificate of Completion to any  
53 individual who satisfactorily completes the course established  
54 under paragraph (1) (b).

55 (b) Volunteer Rural Firefighter Certificate of Completion  
56 to any individual who satisfactorily completes the course  
57 established under paragraph (1) (c).

58 Section 4. Subsection (3) is added to section 633.412,  
59 Florida Statutes, to read:

60 633.412 Firefighters; qualifications for certification.—

61 (3) The requirements of paragraphs (1) (e) and (1) (f) do not  
62 apply to an individual applying for certification as a volunteer  
63 rural firefighter.

64 Section 5. Subsection (3) is added to section 633.414,  
65 Florida Statutes, present subsections (3) and (5) of that  
66 section are redesignated as subsections (4) and (6), and present  
67 subsection (4) is amended, to read:

68 633.414 Retention of firefighter certification.—



679442

69           (3) In order for a volunteer rural firefighter to retain  
70 her or his Volunteer Rural Firefighter Certificate of  
71 Completion, every 4 years he or she must:

72           (a) Be active as a volunteer rural firefighter; or

73           (b) Successfully complete a refresher course consisting of  
74 a minimum of 40 hours of training to be prescribed by rule.

75           (5)-(4) For the purposes of this section, the term "active"  
76 means being employed as a firefighter or providing service as a  
77 volunteer firefighter or volunteer rural firefighter for a  
78 cumulative 6 months within a 4-year period.

79           Section 6. Subsection (2) and paragraph (a) of subsection  
80 (4) of section 633.416, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

81           633.416 Firefighter employment and volunteer firefighter  
82 service; saving clause.-

83           (2) (a) A fire service provider may not retain the services  
84 of an individual volunteering to extinguish fires for the  
85 protection of life or property or to supervise individuals who  
86 perform such services unless the individual holds a current and  
87 valid Volunteer Firefighter Certificate of Completion.

88           (b) A fire service provider may not retain the services of  
89 an individual volunteering to extinguish fires for the  
90 protection of life or property or to supervise individuals who  
91 perform such services only in a municipality with a population  
92 of fewer than 12,000 or a county with a population of fewer than  
93 150,000 unless the individual holds a current and valid  
94 Volunteer Rural Firefighter Certificate of Completion or a  
95 current and valid Volunteer Firefighter Certificate of  
96 Completion. This paragraph does not apply to volunteers who  
97 provide only support services.



679442

98 (4) (a) A fire service provider must notify the division  
99 electronically, as directed by rule by the division, within 10  
100 days after:

101 1. The hiring of a firefighter.

102 2. The retention of a volunteer firefighter or a volunteer  
103 rural firefighter.

104 3. The cessation of employment of a firefighter.

105 4. A decision not to retain a volunteer firefighter or a  
106 volunteer rural firefighter.

107 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2015.

108  
109 ===== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T =====

110 And the title is amended as follows:

111 Delete everything before the enacting clause  
112 and insert:

113 A bill to be entitled  
114 An act relating to volunteer rural firefighting;  
115 amending 633.102, F.S.; defining the term "volunteer  
116 rural firefighter"; amending 633.406, F.S.;  
117 authorizing the Division of State Fire Marshal within  
118 the Department of Financial Services to award a  
119 Volunteer Rural Firefighter Certificate of Completion;  
120 amending s. 633.408, F.S.; authorizing the division to  
121 establish by rule courses and course examinations to  
122 provide training required to obtain the certificate;  
123 providing requirements for the issuance of the  
124 certificate; requiring the division to award credit  
125 for certain courses as provided by rule adopted by the  
126 division; amending s. 633.412, F.S.; exempting



679442

127 applicants for certification as a volunteer rural  
128 firefighter from certain qualifications for  
129 firefighter certification; amending s. 633.414, F.S.;  
130 specifying requirements for the retention of the  
131 certificate; amending s. 633.416, F.S.; specifying the  
132 circumstances under which a fire service provider may  
133 retain the services of a volunteer firefighter;  
134 requiring a fire service provider to provide notice to  
135 the division regarding a decision to retain or not  
136 retain a volunteer rural firefighter; providing an  
137 effective date.