

By Senator Stargel

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to firefighter certifications;  
3       amending s. 633.414, F.S.; authorizing certain  
4       firefighters to complete specified continuing  
5       education training in lieu of a specified instruction  
6       requirement; exempting firefighters holding current  
7       Firefighter Certificates of Compliance from certain  
8       periodic requirements under specified circumstances;  
9       exempting volunteer firefighters holding current  
10      Volunteer Firefighter Certificates of Completion from  
11      certain periodic requirements under specified  
12      circumstances; authorizing the Division of State Fire  
13      Marshal within the Department of Financial Services to  
14      investigate, in a specified manner, certain reports or  
15      complaints against firefighters claiming such  
16      exemptions; providing an effective date.

17  
18 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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20       Section 1. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of section  
21      633.414, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (8) is  
22      added to that section, to read:

23       633.414 Retention of firefighter and volunteer firefighter  
24      certifications.—

25       (1) In order for a firefighter to retain her or his  
26      Firefighter Certificate of Compliance, every 4 years he or she  
27      must meet the requirements for renewal provided in this chapter  
28      and by rule, which must include at least one of the following:

29       (b)1. Maintain a current and valid fire service instructor

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30 certificate; and,

31 2. Instruct or complete at least 40 hours of approved  
32 continuing education during the 4-year period, and provide proof  
33 of such instruction or training to the division, which proof  
34 must be registered in an electronic database designated by the  
35 division.

36 (8) (a) Notwithstanding this section, a firefighter holding  
37 a current Firefighter Certificate of Compliance is exempt from  
38 the requirements, every 4 years, of subparagraph (1) (b) 2. and  
39 paragraphs (1) (c) and (d) if he or she:

40 1. Has completed at least 20 years of service, and so  
41 attests;

42 2. Has been employed with a fire service provider as  
43 defined in s. 633.102(13) and appears on the fire service  
44 provider's roster as recorded in the division's online  
45 electronic database;

46 3. Is vested and in good standing in a firefighter pension  
47 plan, and so attests, or has been determined to have a  
48 disability in line of duty as defined in s. 121.021(13) for the  
49 duration of such disability; and

50 4. Has not been convicted of a felony under s. 633.412(2),  
51 and so attests.

52 (b) Notwithstanding this section, a volunteer firefighter  
53 holding a current Volunteer Firefighter Certificate of  
54 Completion is exempt from the requirement, every 4 years, of  
55 paragraph (2) (b) if he or she:

56 1. Has completed at least 20 years of service, and so  
57 attests;

58 2. Has volunteered with a fire service provider as defined

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59 in s. 633.102(13) and is in good standing with his or her most  
60 recent fire service provider, and so attests; or has been  
61 determined to have a disability in line of duty as defined in s.  
62 121.021(13) for the duration of such disability; and

63 3. Has not been convicted of a felony under s. 633.412(2),  
64 and so attests.

65 (c) The division may investigate any reports or complaints  
66 of a felony conviction of a firefighter claiming an exemption  
67 from renewal or retention requirements under this subsection in  
68 the same manner as the investigative procedures provided in s.  
69 633.426 for other firefighters holding a Firefighter Certificate  
70 of Compliance or a Volunteer Firefighter Certificate of  
71 Completion.

72 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2017.