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CS/HB 929

2025 Legislature

1  
2       An act relating to firefighter health and safety;  
3       amending s. 633.506, F.S.; revising legislative  
4       intent; amending s. 633.508, F.S.; requiring the  
5       Division of State Fire Marshal within the Department  
6       of Financial Services to adopt certain rules;  
7       requiring the division to assist in decreasing the  
8       frequency of fatalities; defining the term "readily  
9       available"; amending s. 633.520, F.S.; requiring the  
10      division to adopt rules relating to education on  
11      chemical hazards or toxic substances and mental health  
12      best practices; amending ss. 633.522 and 633.526,  
13      F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the  
14      act; providing an effective date.

15  
16   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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18       Section 1.   Section 633.506, Florida Statutes, is amended  
19   to read:

20       633.506   Legislative intent.—It is the intent of the  
21   Legislature to enhance firefighter occupational safety and  
22   health in this ~~the~~ state through the implementation and  
23   maintenance of policies, procedures, practices, rules, work  
24   schedules, and standards that reduce the incidence of  
25   firefighter employee accidents, firefighter employee

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26 occupational diseases, and firefighter employee fatalities  
27 compensable under chapter 112, chapter 440, or otherwise. The  
28 Legislature further intends that the division develop a means by  
29 which the division can identify individual firefighter employers  
30 with a high frequency or severity of work-related injuries,  
31 occupational diseases, or suicide; conduct safety inspections of  
32 those firefighter employers;~~;~~ and assist those firefighter  
33 employers in the development and implementation of firefighter  
34 employee safety and health programs. In addition, it is the  
35 intent of the Legislature that the division administer and  
36 enforce this part; provide assistance to firefighter employers,  
37 firefighter employees, and insurers; and enforce the policies,  
38 rules, and standards set forth in this part.

39       Section 2. Subsection (7) of section 633.508, Florida  
40 Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (8), subsection (1) and  
41 paragraph (a) of present subsection (7) are amended, and a new  
42 subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

43       633.508 Workplace safety; rulemaking authority; division  
44 authority.—

45       (1) The division shall assist in making the firefighter  
46 employee place of employment a safer place to work and  
47 decreasing the frequency and severity of on-the-job injuries and  
48 the frequency of fatalities in such workplace.

49       (7) The division shall adopt rules relating to all of the  
50 following:

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51        (a) Requiring firefighter employers to purchase  
52 firefighting gear that does not contain chemical hazards or  
53 toxic substances when such gear becomes readily available on the  
54 commercial market. For purposes of this paragraph, "readily  
55 available" means available from more than one manufacturer.  
56 Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph may recommend a phased-  
57 in approach for firefighting gear replacement.

58        (b) Requiring firefighter employers that issue  
59 firefighting gear that contains or is manufactured with chemical  
60 hazards or toxic substances to provide their firefighter  
61 employees notice that the firefighting gear issued may contain  
62 or be manufactured with chemical hazards or toxic substances.

63        (c) Encouraging firefighter employers to implement work  
64 schedules that do not require a firefighter employee's normally  
65 scheduled shifts to exceed 42 hours per workweek.

66        (8)~~(7)~~ The department shall:

67        (a) Investigate and prescribe by rule what safety devices,  
68 safeguards, or other means of protection must be adopted for the  
69 prevention of accidents and injuries in every firefighter  
70 employee place of employment or at any fire scene; determine  
71 what suitable devices, safeguards, or other means of protection  
72 for the prevention of occupational diseases must be adopted or  
73 followed in any or all such firefighter places of employment or  
74 at any emergency fire scene; and adopt reasonable rules for the  
75 prevention of accidents, the safety, protection, and security of

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76 firefighter employees engaged in interior firefighting, and the  
77 prevention of occupational diseases and fatalities.

78 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 633.520, Florida  
79 Statutes, is amended to read:

80 633.520 Safety; firefighter employer responsibilities.—

81 (2) The division shall adopt rules to establish:

82 (a) Employers' cancer prevention best practices related to  
83 personal protective equipment, chemical hazards or toxic  
84 substance education regarding personal protective equipment,  
85 decontamination, fire suppression equipment, and fire stations.

86 (b) Employers' mental health best practices related to  
87 resiliency, stress management, peer support, and access to  
88 mental healthcare.

89 Section 4. Subsection (1), paragraph (b) of subsection  
90 (2), and paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 633.522,  
91 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

92 633.522 Firefighter employers; high frequency of work-  
93 related injuries; corrective plans; workplace safety committees  
94 and coordinators; failure to implement a safety and health  
95 program; cancellation.—

96 (1) The division shall develop a means to identify  
97 individual firefighter employers with a high frequency of  
98 firefighter employee work-related injuries and suicide. The  
99 division shall conduct safety inspections of those firefighter  
100 employers so identified to ensure compliance with this part or

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101 the division's rules and make recommendations based upon current  
102 safety and health practices and to assist such firefighter  
103 employers in reducing the number of work-related injuries and  
104 suicide. The division may not assess penalties as a result of  
105 such inspections. Copies of any report made as the result of  
106 such an inspection shall be provided to the firefighter employer  
107 and its insurer. Firefighter employers shall submit a plan for  
108 the correction of any noncompliance issues to the division for  
109 approval in accordance with division rule. The division shall  
110 promptly review the plan submitted and approve or disapprove the  
111 plan within 60 days, or such plan shall be deemed approved. Upon  
112 approval by the division, the plan shall be implemented by the  
113 firefighter employer. If the plan is not submitted, does not  
114 provide corrective actions for all deficiencies, is not  
115 complete, or is not implemented, the fire service provider shall  
116 be subject to s. 633.526.

117 (2) In order to promote health and safety in firefighter  
118 employee places of employment in this state:

119 (b) Each firefighter employer of fewer than 20 firefighter  
120 employees with a high frequency or high severity of work-related  
121 injuries or a high frequency of work-related fatalities, as  
122 identified by the division, shall establish and administer a  
123 workplace safety committee or designate a workplace safety  
124 coordinator who shall establish and administer workplace safety  
125 activities in accordance with rules adopted under this section.

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126 (3) The division shall adopt rules:

127 (c) Prescribing the duties and functions of the workplace  
128 safety committee and workplace safety coordinator which include,  
129 but are not limited to:

130 1. Establishing procedures for workplace safety  
131 inspections by the committee.

132 2. Establishing procedures for investigating all workplace  
133 accidents, safety-related incidents, illnesses, and deaths.

134 3. Evaluating accident prevention, ~~and~~ illness prevention,  
135 and suicide prevention programs.

136 4. Prescribing guidelines for the training of safety  
137 committee members.

138 Section 5. Section 633.526, Florida Statutes, is amended  
139 to read:

140 633.526 Firefighter employer penalties.—If any firefighter  
141 employer violates or fails or refuses to comply with this part,  
142 or with any rule adopted by the division under such sections in  
143 accordance with chapter 120 for the prevention of injuries,  
144 accidents, or occupational diseases or with any lawful order of  
145 the division in connection with this part, or fails or refuses  
146 to furnish or adopt any safety device, safeguard, or other means  
147 of protection prescribed by division rule under this part for  
148 the prevention of accidents, injuries, fatalities, or  
149 occupational diseases, the division may:

150 (1) Issue an administrative cease and desist order,

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151 enforceable in the circuit court in the jurisdiction where the  
152 violation is occurring or has occurred.

153       (2) Assess an administrative fine against a firefighter  
154 employer of not less than \$100 or more than \$1,000 for each  
155 violation and each day a violation is committed.

156       (3) Assess against the firefighter employer a civil  
157 penalty of not less than \$100 nor more than \$5,000 for each day  
158 the violation, omission, failure, or refusal continues after the  
159 firefighter employer has been given written notice of such  
160 violation, omission, failure, or refusal. The total penalty for  
161 each violation shall not exceed \$50,000. The division shall  
162 adopt rules requiring penalties commensurate with the frequency  
163 or severity of safety violations. Hearings requested under this  
164 section shall be conducted in Tallahassee. All penalties  
165 assessed and collected under this section shall be deposited in  
166 the Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund.

167       Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.