



HOUSE BILL 147: Update Fire and Rescue Commission Membership

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:

Introduced by:

Analysis of: S.L. 2015-39

Date:

Prepared by: Kelly Tornow
Staff Attorney

SUMMARY: *S.L. 2015-39 updates the membership of the State Fire and Rescue Commission and clarifies the powers of the Commission.*

This act became effective July 1, 2015.

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 58-78-1 creates the State Fire and Rescue Commission, which is housed in the Department of Insurance. There are 15 members on the Commission. The Commissioner of Insurance appoints 12 of those members from nominations submitted by: the North Carolina State Firemen's Association (2), the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs (1), the Professional Firefighters of North Carolina Society of Fire Instructors (1), the North Carolina Association of County Fire Marshals (1), the North Carolina Fire Marshal's Association (1), the North Carolina Association of Rescue and Emergency Medical Services, Inc. (2), one mayor or elected city official nominated by the President of the Association of County Commissioners, and one from the public at-large. The Governor appoints one member of the public, and the General Assembly appoints two members of the public, one upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the other upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

Public members may not be employed in State government and may not be directly involved in firefighting or rescue services.

G.S. 58-78-5 establishes the Commission's powers and duties, including adopting a State Fire Education and Training Plan, assisting and participating in the improvement of fire prevention and control, increasing the professional skills of fire prevention and control and rescue services, and establishing voluntary minimum professional qualifications for all levels of fire service and rescue service personnel.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1 of S.L. 2015-39 changes the membership of the Commission by removing the members appointed from nominations submitted by the North Carolina Association of County Fire Marshals and replacing that seat with an appointee from nominations submitted by the North Carolina Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators. Section 1 also removes the language prohibiting public members of the Commission from being involved in firefighting or rescue services.

Section 2 clarifies that the Commission's powers include the authority to issue, deny, suspend, revoke, or take similar actions regarding certifications of minimal professional qualifications issued by the Commission.

Section 3 is technical in nature and makes the language referring to the chairman and vice-chairman gender neutral.

O. Walker Reagan
Director



Research Division
(919) 733-2578

House Bill 147

Page 2

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