



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Amber Hardesty

H.B. 166

129th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Phillips, Murray, Carey, Garland, Clyde

BILL SUMMARY

- Requires the State Board of Emergency Medical Services to notify a certified individual not later than 60 days before expiration of the individual's certificate by mailing a written notification to the individual's residence.
- Requires the Board annually to notify the chief of each fire department of the fire training certification expiration dates for each firefighter in that department.
- Allows a volunteer firefighter to renew an expired certificate without penalty under certain circumstances.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Expiration of EMT and first responder certificate

The State Board of Emergency Medical Services, within the Division of Emergency Medical Services of the Department of Public Safety, issues certificates to practice as a first responder, as an emergency medical technician-basic, or as an emergency medical technician-intermediate to a qualified applicant. The bill requires the Board to notify a certified individual not later than 60 days before the expiration date of the individual's certificate of the scheduled expiration by mailing a written notification to the individual at the individual's residence. Under current law, the Board must notify the individual not later than 60 days before the expiration date of an individual's certificate to practice, but does not specify the manner of the notification.¹

¹ R.C. 4765.30.

Fire training certificate

Expiration

The bill requires the executive director of the Board, with the advice and counsel of the Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector Training Committee of the Board, to adopt rules under the Administrative Procedure Act that establish all of the following:

(1) A requirement that the Board mail written notification to an individual at the individual's residence not later than 60 days before the expiration date of the individual's fire training certificate;

(2) A requirement that the Board annually mail to the chief of each fire department in Ohio, a list of fire training certificate expiration dates for each individual providing fire-fighting services in that department. "Fire department" means a volunteer fire department, a fire department of a political subdivision or fire district of Ohio, or a private volunteer company that has elected to participate in the Volunteer Fire Fighters' Dependents Fund.²

Volunteer firefighter training certificate

Under the bill, a volunteer firefighter whose fire training certificate expired, who did not renew the certificate, and who meets all of the following criteria is entitled to apply for and obtain a fire training certificate in the same manner, and by meeting the same requirements, as if the firefighter had applied for renewal of the certificate before its expiration:

(1) The firefighter is a "volunteer firefighter" (see below);

(2) The firefighter received a certificate under the former or current Fire Service Training Program Law;

(3) The firefighter was a duly appointed member of a fire department; and

(4) The firefighter has provided to the executive director of the Board an affidavit stating that the firefighter did not renew the firefighter's fire training certificate because the firefighter was unaware of the requirement to do so that was established by rule under Sub. H.B. 401 of the 126th General Assembly. The bill specifies that this provision expires six months after its effective date.³

² R.C. 4765.55.

³ Section 3.

A "volunteer firefighter" generally means both of the following: (a) a duly appointed member of a fire department on either a nonpay or part-pay basis who is ineligible to be a member of the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund, or whose employment as a firefighter does not in itself qualify the person for membership in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS), or who has waived membership in PERS, and (b) firefighters drafted, requisitioned, or appointed to serve in an emergency.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-22-11

H0166-1-129.docx/jc

