

ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2011
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB121

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 08, 2011
Committee On: Urban Affairs
Introducer: Avery
One Liner: Eliminate provisions relating to the State Fire Marshal from the Volunteer Emergency Responders Recruitment and Retention Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File

Vote Results:

Aye: 7 Senators Ashford, Coash, Cook, Krist, McGill, Schumacher, Smith
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Proponents:

Christine Abraham
John Falgione
Jerry Stilmock

Representing:

Self
State Fire Marshal's Agency
Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 121 changes three sections of statute.

First, 35-1309 (3) is amended, by removing the language requested by the State Fire Marshal from the statute. This eliminates the responsibility of administering the service award benefit program and the collection of information related to the participants in the program from the State Fire Marshals office.

Second, 35-1311.01 is repealed. This section of statute required each city, village or rural or suburban fire protection district with a volunteer fire department to file a report each year with the State Fire Marshals office a report specifying the number of volunteer members serving there each year. The State Fire Marshal was also required under this statute to compile a report containing the responses filed by each of the above with the Clerk of the Legislature each year no later than December 1.

Third, 35-1321 is repealed. This section of statute required each city, village or rural or suburban fire protection district to notify the State Fire Marshal of their adoption of a service award benefit program within 30 days of the adoption of such program.

Comments/Analysis:

The Volunteer Emergency Responder Recruitment and Retention Act was enacted in 1999 as a means to help volunteer departments retain volunteer responders. The program is designed to provide payment of benefits based on length of

service of active volunteer members of volunteer fire departments and rescue squads. (The service award benefit program.)

This bill removes the State Fire Marshals duty under the Volunteer Emergency Responders Recruitment and Retention Act to develop and maintain a record keeping and certification list database. The program itself is not eliminated, but becomes the responsibility of the local fire departments and municipalities to administer.

Amanda McGill, Chairperson