

1 A bill to be entitled
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.

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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

occupational diseases, and firefighter employee fatalities compensable under chapter 112, chapter 440, or otherwise. The Legislature further intends that the division develop a means by which the division can identify individual firefighter employers with a high frequency or severity of work-related injuries, occupational diseases, or suicide; conduct safety inspections of those firefighter employers;~~7~~ and assist those firefighter employers in the development and implementation of firefighter employee safety and health programs. In addition, it is the intent of the Legislature that the division administer and enforce this part; provide assistance to firefighter employers, firefighter employees, and insurers; and enforce the policies, rules, and standards set forth in this part.

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

633.508 Workplace safety; rulemaking authority; division authority.—

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

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

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

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

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.

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,

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.