
DIGEST

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HB 85 Original

2024 Regular Session

Bagley

Abstract: Authorizes payment of state supplements to the salaries of certain emergency medical services practitioners.

Present law provides for state supplemental pay of \$600 per month for any regularly employed firefighter who is paid not less than \$300 per month by any municipality, parish, fire protection district, or other political subdivision maintaining a fire department, or by the Chitimacha Tribe of La., or Coushatta Tribe of La., or any nonprofit corporation contracting with any political subdivision to provide fire protection services and who completes one year of service. Proposed law retains present law.

Beginning July 1, 2026, proposed law authorizes state supplemental pay of \$600 per month for any regularly employed emergency medical services practitioner employed by a political subdivision of the state who completes one year of service. Defines "emergency medical services practitioner" for the purposes of proposed law to mean a person employed as a licensed emergency medical technician, a licensed advanced emergency medical technician, or a licensed paramedic. Further provides the term does not include a part-time employee or volunteer who is carried on the payroll of a political subdivision.

Present law provides that the term "employee" for purposes of present law expressly excludes any person hired primarily to perform secretarial and clerical duties, switchboard operators, secretaries, record clerks, maintenance personnel, and mechanics. Proposed law retains present law. Present law further provides that the term "employee" expressly excludes employees hired after March 31, 1986, who have not completed and passed a certified fireman's training program equal to National Fire Protection Association Standard 1001 Firefighter I Certification or a firefighter's training program as approved by the office of state fire marshal Fire and Emergency Training Academy in accordance with present law and it also expressly excludes part-time employees and volunteers of such municipal, parish, tribe, or fire protection district fire departments. Proposed law limits these exclusions to individuals employed to provide fire protection services.

Present law limits application of salary supplements for tribal officers of the Chitimacha Tribe of La. and the Coushatta Tribe of La. to no more than 10 firemen. Proposed law specifies that this limitation applies to the compensation provided pursuant to present law.

Present law establishes procedures for warrants drawn to pay the monthly supplement authorized by present law. Proposed law retains present law procedures for the payment of supplements to firemen

as provided in present law. Further provides procedures for warrants drawn to pay the monthly supplement authorized in proposed law public emergency medical services practitioners. Requires the head of the political subdivision employing the eligible practitioner to submit the approved and certified warrant for payment and requires inclusion of the same information as required for firemen's warrants in present law. Provides for payment of the warrants by the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections. Also requires the head of the political subdivision employing the eligible practitioner to calculate and deduct from such pay the required state and federal withholdings. Requires the compensation paid pursuant to proposed law to be included in the calculation and computation of total wages paid in the determination of employer contributions to any retirement system or pension fund that the recipient is a member of as well as in the determination of retirement eligibility and benefits in such system.

Effective if and when the proposed amendment of Article VII of the Constitution of La. contained in the Act which originated as House Bill No. ___ of this 2024 R.S. of the Legislature is adopted at a statewide election and becomes effective.

(Amends R.S. 40:1666.1(A)(1) and (2) and (C); Adds R.S. 40:1666.3.1)