
DIGEST

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Berthelot

HB No. 382

Abstract: Creates a volunteer firefighter's tuition reimbursement program to provide tuition reimbursement to volunteer firefighters for attendance at a state public college, university, vocational, or technical school.

Proposed law creates a volunteer firefighter's tuition reimbursement program to provide tuition reimbursement to eligible volunteer firefighters attending a state funded public college, university, vocational, or technical school.

Proposed law creates the Volunteer Firefighter's Tuition Reimbursement Fund in the state treasury for the deposit of state general fund monies if available and appropriated by the legislature and any federal funds, donations, or other monies that may be provided.

Proposed law creates the Volunteer Firefighter's Tuition Reimbursement Board composed of seven members, to serve without compensation except for reimbursement of expenses, as follows:

- (1) The state fire marshal or his designee.
- (2) The president of the Senate or his designee.
- (3) The speaker of the House or his designee.
- (4) One member appointed by the governor.
- (5) One member appointed by the La. State Firemen's Assoc.
- (6) Two members appointed by the La. Fire Chief's Assoc., one of whom shall be the chief of a predominantly volunteer fire department.

Proposed law allows the board to adopt rules and regulations for the governance of the board. Requires the board to create an application and develop an application process, determine applicant eligibility, disburse tuition reimbursements, require status reports on voluntary firefighter status and require education progress reports.

Proposed law requires eligible applicants to, at a minimum, reside in the state for at least one year prior to application, complete a two-year associate degree program or two years of a four-

year degree program or one year of a vo-tech school, and volunteer for at least two years with a fire department and at the time of application serve as a volunteer firefighter. Disqualifies a recipient from receiving the tuition reimbursement if the board determines that the recipient has failed to maintain good standing with the attending school or has discontinued service as a volunteer firefighter.

Proposed law allows the board to adopt, in accordance with the APA, rules and regulations necessary to implement the program.

(Adds R.S. 40:1558.1-1558.7)