

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE BILL NO. 339

BY REPRESENTATIVE BERTHELOT

Prefiled pursuant to Article III, Section 2(A)(4)(b)(i) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

FIRE PROTECT/FIRE MARSHAL: Allows the use of public funds for length of service awards programs established by fire protection districts, municipal fire departments, or volunteer fire departments for volunteer firefighters

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 40:1510, relative to volunteer firefighters; to allow for the use
3 of public funds for certain activities; to create a length of service program; and to
4 provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 40:1510 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §1510. Expenditure of public funds for awards, recognition and meals

8 A. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a fire protection
9 district, municipal fire department, or volunteer fire department may expend public
10 funds in connection with the following activities:

11 (1) The purchase of a plaque, trophy, certificate, medal, or similar memento
12 to acknowledge outstanding achievement or valiant act of personnel not to exceed
13 one hundred dollars.

14 (2) Meals, snacks, or refreshments for firefighters involved in fire
15 department related meetings, workshops, training programs, or performing of
16 emergency services not to exceed twenty-five dollars per person.

17 (3) The implementation and execution of a length of service awards
18 program. For the purposes of this Paragraph, a length of service awards program
19 shall mean a program established by the fire protection district, municipal fire
20 department, or volunteer fire department that provides a monetary benefit, based

1 upon service, to eligible volunteer firefighters as determined by the fire protection
 2 district, municipal fire department, or volunteer fire department. The length of
 3 service awards program shall not be considered a vested right nor entitle the recipient
 4 to any other benefit not directly related to the program's monetary benefit. The
 5 length of service award shall not be considered permanent and may be discontinued
 6 at any time.

7 ~~(3)~~ B. The provisions of this Section shall not be construed to prohibit or
 8 restrict the use of public funds to pay or defray the reasonable expenses of travel and
 9 lodging required for attendance at any conference or convention for the purpose of
 10 educating or training fire department personnel with regard to their public duties and
 11 responsibilities.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Berthelot

HB No. 339

Abstract: Allows for the use of public funds by a fire protection district, municipal fire department, or volunteer fire department for the implementation of length of service awards program for volunteer firefighters.

Present law allows fire protection districts, municipal fire departments, and volunteer fire departments to use public funds in connection with certain activities such as the purchase of recognitions of achievement not to exceed \$100 and refreshments for firefighters while at meetings or training. Present law further specifies that public funds can be used to pay or defray reasonable travel expenses at an educational conference.

Proposed law retains present law and in addition allows for the use of public funds by fire districts, municipal fire departments, and volunteer fire departments for the implementation of length of service awards programs, which provide a monetary benefit, based on service, to eligible volunteer firefighters. Provides that the program is not a vested right and does not entitle recipients to other benefits. Provides that the award is not permanent.

(Amends R.S. 40:1510)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs to the original bill.

1. Specifies that the length of service award program is not a vested right, does not entitle the recipient to any other benefits not directly related to the program, and may be discontinued at any time.