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## DIGEST

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HB 148 Engrossed

2023 Regular Session

Stagni

**Abstract:** Modifies the qualifications and procedures for payment of firemen's state supplemental pay.

Present law (R.S. 40:1666.1) sets the qualifications required for a fireman to receive state supplemental pay. Part of such qualifications are that the employee is paid not less than \$300 per month, exclusive of supplemental pay. Proposed law repeals this requirement. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 40:1666.3) requires the mayor or parish official of the respective municipality or parish to issue a warrant for the monthly payment to qualifying firemen. Proposed law adds fire chiefs as a party who must approve and certify the warrant.

Present law places the state fire marshal in charge of disbursements for fireman supplemental pay. Proposed law changes responsibility for the disbursements to the Department of Public Safety and Corrections (DPSC).

Present law requires the mayors or parish officials of the employing political subdivision to forward the warrant to DPSC. Proposed law requires the mayor or parish official to submit the approved and certified warrant to DPSC. Present law requires DPSC to issue and deliver checks to each employee receiving supplemental payment and requires certain statements to be contained on each check. Proposed law authorizes DPSC to issue payment by whatever means and removes the requirement that the payment contain certain statements.

Present law requires the mayor or other municipal or parish officer charged with responsibility for preparing the payrolls of employees to include state supplemental pay into each employees tax withholdings and retirement contributions. Proposed law retains present law and adds the fire chief as a party who may be responsible for such calculations of tax withholdings and retirement contributions.

Present law (R.S. 40:1666.7) establishes the Fireman's Supplemental Pay Board and authorizes the state fire marshal to pay \$50 per day per diem to each member attending official business. Proposed law requires DPSC to issue such per diem rather than the state fire marshal.

Present law authorizes the board to employ an accountant and sets the requirements for such position. Proposed law repeals the authority of present law.

Effective July 1, 2023.

(Amends R.S. 40:1666.1(A)(1), 1666.3(A), (B), and (C), and 1666.6)