

AN ACT concerning government.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Firefighter Training Leave of Absence Act.

Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Act:

"Agency" means any branch, department, board, committee, or commission of State government. "Agency" does not include a unit of local government, school district, or board of election commissioners.

"State employee" means a permanent, full-time employee who has been employed by an agency for a period of 6 months or more and is a member of any fire department or fire protection district recognized by the State Fire Marshal.

Section 10. Leave of absence for firefighter training.

(a) A State employee shall be granted leave from his or her State employment for firefighter training as follows:

(1) on one occasion, for up to 200 hours, to participate in training necessary to obtain Basic Operations Firefighter certification from the State Fire Marshal while attending a State Fire Marshal-approved fire academy; and

(2) special or advanced training annually, not to exceed 80 hours, after obtaining Basic Operations Firefighter certification from the State Fire Marshal for courses that will lead to additional certification by the State Fire Marshal.

(b) The maximum leaves of absence under this Act for any calendar year may not exceed 200 hours. During a leave of absence, the employee's seniority and other benefits shall continue to accrue.

(c) During a leave of absence for basic, special, or advanced training, the State employee shall continue to receive his or her regular compensation as a State employee. If the State employee receives compensation for basic, special, or advanced training, the State employee shall receive his or her regular compensation as a State employee minus the amount of his or her compensation for basic, special, or advanced training.

(d) A State employee who wishes to obtain a leave of absence under this Act shall request in advance for the leave of absence and may take the leave of absence only after obtaining approval from the State employee's agency. A leave of absence may not be denied to a State employee who requests leave under this Section and who has provided notification of the leave at least 14 calendar days prior to the requested leave date. A State employee who provides less than 14 calendar days' notice of the leave may be denied leave if the

State employee's agency demonstrates that the leave would create a health or safety hazard in the workplace. If the leave is denied, written notification must be provided to the employee within 24 hours after the employee's request for leave. Once the leave has been approved, approval for the leave may not be rescinded.

Section 15. Rules. The Department of Central Management Services and the Comptroller shall adopt joint rules to develop procedures for the implementation of this Act.