

STATE OF MAINE

—
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

—
S.P. 283 - L.D. 731

An Act To Establish a Program To Assist Regional Firefighter Training Programs, To Provide Tax Credits to Businesses That Employ Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons and To Provide Benefits to Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §3371, sub-§8, ¶G, as amended by PL 2017, c. 444, §1, is further amended to read:

G. Submit proposed legislation to the Legislature to implement any recommendations of the commission; ~~and~~

Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §3371, sub-§8, ¶H, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 444, §2, is amended to read:

H. Make awards from the Live Fire Service Training Facilities Fund pursuant to Title 20-A, section 9004 and direct the Maine Fire Service Institute within the Maine Community College System to make payments to municipalities from the fund; ~~and~~

Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §3371, sub-§8, ¶I is enacted to read:

I. Make awards from the Regional Fire Service Training Fund pursuant to Title 20-A, section 9005 and direct the Maine Fire Service Institute within the Maine Community College System to make payments to municipalities from the fund.

Sec. 4. 20-A MRSA §9005 is enacted to read:

§9005. Regional Fire Service Training Fund

1. Fund established. The Regional Fire Service Training Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established under the Maine Fire Service Institute within the Maine Community College System as a nonlapsing fund to provide funds to municipalities for regional fire service training in the State.

2. Grant program. The Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, referred to in this section as "the commission" and established pursuant to Title 5, section 12004-J, subsection 12, shall establish criteria to award grants to municipalities from the fund for

the purpose of funding regional fire service training for municipal firefighters and public safety employees. The commission may adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

3. Procedure. Municipalities may apply to the commission for grants. The commission shall evaluate each application pursuant to the criteria developed in subsection 2 and, to the extent funds are available, shall award grants from the fund to support regional fire service training programs.

4. Payment of grants. Upon the award of a grant by the commission, the commission shall direct the Maine Fire Service Institute within the Maine Community College System to make the payment of the grant award to the municipality from the fund.

Sec. 5. 36 MRSA §5217-F is enacted to read:

§5217-F. Employer support for volunteer firefighters and volunteer municipal emergency medical services persons

For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2022, an employer who employs an individual who is a volunteer firefighter, as defined in Title 30-A, section 3151, subsection 4, or a volunteer municipal emergency medical services person and who permits that employee to respond to fire calls or emergency medical services calls, as appropriate, during hours when the employee is scheduled to work without a reduction in pay is eligible for a credit against the tax imposed by this Part equal to the compensation that is paid to the employee at the employee's regular rate of pay during the time when the employee is away from work due to firefighting or emergency response responsibilities. For the purposes of this subsection, "volunteer municipal emergency medical services person" means an emergency medical services person as defined in Title 32, section 83, subsection 12 who responds to emergency medical services calls from a municipality and who receives no compensation from the municipality other than injury and death benefits.

Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF
Revenue Services, Bureau of 0002**

Initiative: Provides one-time funding for computer programming.

GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
All Other	\$0	\$33,000
GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$0	\$33,000