

CHAPTER 57**(SB 189)**

AN ACT relating to fire protection.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. KRS 95A.520 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) *For volunteer fire departments merging prior to the effective date of this Act*, the Kentucky Fire Commission shall pay to the merged district, for the first, second, and third years after the merger, the number of qualified shares of volunteer fire department aid allotted under KRS 95A.262(2) equal to the total number of qualified shares that each department would have received previous to merger;
- (2) The Kentucky Fire Commission shall pay to the merged district, for the fourth, fifth, and sixth years after the merger, the number of qualified shares of volunteer fire department aid allotted under KRS 95A.262(2) equal to fifty percent (50%) of the total number of qualified shares that each department would have received previous to merger, plus one (1) yearly disbursement of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) as a merger incentive; and
- (3) The Kentucky Fire Commission shall pay to the merged district, for the seventh year after the merger and thereafter, one (1) qualified share of volunteer fire department aid allotted under KRS 95A.262(2).

➔Section 2. KRS 95A.540 is amended to read as follows:

For volunteer fire departments merging prior to the effective date of this Act, if a new volunteer fire department is created from territory in an existing fire department merged under the provisions of KRS 95A.500 to 95A.560, the newly created volunteer fire district shall be able to receive one (1) share at the next regular disbursement date, if qualified. The parent fire department shall have aid allotted under KRS 95A.262(2) reduced by one (1) qualified share for calculations of aid, for the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth years after merger.

➔SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS 95A.500 TO 95A.560 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) *For volunteer fire departments merging on or after the effective date of this Act, the Kentucky Fire Commission shall pay to the resulting merged district the number of qualified shares of volunteer fire department aid allotted under KRS 95A.262 equal to the total number of qualified shares that each merging department would have received prior to merger.*
- (2) *If the resulting merged district does not remain qualified to receive the volunteer fire department aid allotted under KRS 95A.262, then the Kentucky Fire Commission shall suspend all payments calculated under subsection (1) of this section. The merged district shall have ninety (90) days to come into compliance with the requirements for qualification. If the merged district does so, then the commission shall resume payments as calculated under subsection (1) of this section. If the merged district does not come into compliance within ninety (90) days of the loss of qualification, then the commission shall not resume payments as calculated under subsection (1) of this section. Should the merged district come into compliance after ninety (90) days, it shall receive only one (1) qualified share of the volunteer fire department aid under KRS 95A.262.*

Signed by Governor March 30, 2022.