

CHAPTER 24

(HB 131)

AN ACT relating to firefighters' work schedules.

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

➔Section 1. KRS 95.500 is amended to read as follows:

- (1) The chief of the fire department in cities or urban-county governments, or an officer acting under his *or her* authority;~~[-,]~~
 - (a) Shall be present at all fires and investigate their cause;~~[-, He]~~
 - (b) May examine witnesses, compel the production of testimony, administer oaths, make arrests, and enter any building for the purpose of examination that, in his *or her* opinion, is in danger from fires; ~~and[-, He]~~
 - (c) Shall report his *or her* proceedings to the city legislative body when required.
- (2) The chief shall:
 - (a) Direct and control the operations of the members of the fire department in the discharge of their duties;~~[-, He shall]~~
 - (b) Have access to and use of all cisterns, fireplugs, the waters of the waterworks, and the cisterns of private persons, for the purpose of extinguishing fires;~~[-, He shall]~~
 - (c) Have the right to examine all cisterns, and all plugs and pipes of the waterworks, to see that they are in condition for use in case of fire;~~[-, He shall]~~
 - (d) Have control of all buildings, hose, engines, and other equipment provided for the fire department; ~~and[-, He shall]~~
 - (e) Perform such other duties as the legislative body shall, by ordinance, prescribe.
- (3) (a) The fire department of each city listed on the registry pursuant to subsection (5) of this section or urban-county government shall be divided into three (3) platoons of firefighters. Each platoon, excluding the chief, the assistant chief, clerical employees, maintenance employees, fire inspectors, fire investigators, and arson investigators, in fire departments in the cities listed on the registry or in urban-county governments, shall be on duty for:
 1. Twenty-four (24) consecutive hours, after which the platoon serving twenty-four (24) hours shall be allowed to remain off duty for forty-eight (48) consecutive hours;~~[-,]~~
 2. *Unless otherwise provided in a collective bargaining agreement, be on forty-eight (48) consecutive hours, after which the platoon serving forty-eight (48) consecutive hours shall be allowed to remain off duty for the following ninety-six (96) consecutive hours; or*
 3. *Unless otherwise provided in a collective bargaining agreement, twenty-four (24) hours, after which the platoon serving twenty-four (24) hours shall be allowed to remain off duty for seventy-two (72) hours, after which that platoon shall be on duty again for forty-eight (48) hours, then shall be allowed to remain off duty again for seventy-two (72) hours;*

except in cases of dire emergency. The chief of the fire department shall arrange the schedule of working hours to comply with the provisions of this section. The pay, rank, or benefits of the members and officers of the fire department shall not be reduced as a result of this subsection.

 - (b) *Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this subsection, any city or urban-county government that maintains a collective bargaining agreement with members of its fire department may reach an agreement with the bargaining unit to establish an alternative staffing and scheduling plan for the operation of its fire department.*
 - (c) *Any change in a work schedule made pursuant to this subsection shall not result in a decrease in the compensation of firefighters, exclusive of unscheduled overtime.*

- (4) In each city or urban-county government listed on the registry, all employees of the fire department shall be given not less than two (2) weeks leave of absence annually, with full pay.
- (5) On or before January 1, 2015, the Department for Local Government shall create a registry of cities that shall be required to comply with the provisions of subsections (3) and (4) of this section. The Department for Local Government shall include each of those cities on the registry that were classified as cities of the second class on August 1, 2014. The Department for Local Government shall make the information included on the registry available to the public by publishing it on its ~~website~~~~[Web site]~~.

Signed by Governor March 17, 2025.