

1 AN ACT relating to firefighters' work schedules.

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

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

- 4 (1) The chief of the fire department in cities or urban-county governments, or an officer
5 acting under his authority, shall be present at all fires and investigate their cause. He
6 may examine witnesses, compel the production of testimony, administer oaths,
7 make arrests, and enter any building for the purpose of examination that, in his
8 opinion, is in danger from fires. He shall report his proceedings to the city
9 legislative body when required.
- 10 (2) The chief shall direct and control the operations of the members of the fire
11 department in the discharge of their duties. He shall have access to and use of all
12 cisterns, fireplugs, the waters of the waterworks, and the cisterns of private persons,
13 for the purpose of extinguishing fires. He shall have the right to examine all
14 cisterns, and all plugs and pipes of the waterworks, to see that they are in condition
15 for use in case of fire. He shall have control of all buildings, hose, engines, and
16 other equipment provided for the fire department. He shall perform such other
17 duties as the legislative body shall, by ordinance, prescribe.
- 18 (3) **(a)** The fire department of each city listed on the registry pursuant to subsection
19 (5) of this section or urban-county government shall be divided into three (3)
20 platoons of firefighters. Each platoon, excluding the chief, the assistant chief,
21 clerical employees, maintenance employees, fire inspectors, fire investigators,
22 and arson investigators, in fire departments in the cities listed on the registry
23 or in urban-county governments, shall **either** be on duty for twenty-four (24)
24 consecutive hours, after which the platoon serving twenty-four (24) hours
25 shall be allowed to remain off duty for forty-eight (48) consecutive hours, **or,**
26 **unless otherwise provided in a collective bargaining agreement, be on duty**
27 **for forty eight (48) consecutive hours, after which the platoon serving forty-**

1 *eight (48) consecutive hours shall be allowed to remain off duty for the*
2 *following ninety-six (96) consecutive hours,* except in cases of dire
3 emergency. The chief of the fire department shall arrange the schedule of
4 working hours to comply with the provisions of this section. The pay, rank, or
5 benefits of the members and officers of the fire department shall not be
6 reduced as a result of this subsection.

7 *(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, any city or urban-county*
8 *government that maintains a collective bargaining agreement with members*
9 *of its fire department may reach an agreement with the bargaining unit to*
10 *establish an alternative staffing and scheduling plan for the operation of its*
11 *fire department.*

12 (4) In each city or urban-county government listed on the registry, all employees of the
13 fire department shall be given not less than two (2) weeks leave of absence
14 annually, with full pay.

15 (5) On or before January 1, 2015, the Department for Local Government shall create a
16 registry of cities that shall be required to comply with the provisions of subsections
17 (3) and (4) of this section. The Department for Local Government shall include
18 each of those cities on the registry that were classified as cities of the second class
19 on August 1, 2014. The Department for Local Government shall make the
20 information included on the registry available to the public by publishing it on its
21 *Website*~~[Web site]~~.