



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

ORLENE HAWKS
DIRECTOR

Memorandum

VIA E-MAIL

DATE: August 26, 2021

TO: Representative Luke Meerman, Chairperson, JCAR
Senator Jon Bumstead, Alternate Chairperson, JCAR
Jimmy Biehl, House Republican Policy Office
Jonathan Shiflett, Senate Majority Policy Office
Tim Reeves, Counsel, JCAR
Elizabeth Edberg, Counsel, JCAR

FROM: Derek Sova, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT: Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) Briefing Memo for Rule Set 2019-021 LR Firefighters Training Council General Rules

Rules Primer

The Firefighter Training Council General Rules provide guidance for members of the Michigan fire service to receive fire certification that minimally meets the standards for each fire level certification by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Further, the rules provide clarification to processes that affect the initial training and ongoing continuing education for all members and leadership of fire departments related to fire training.

Summary of the Final Proposed Rule

The proposed rule revisions will:

- Add new definitions to the rule set.
- Require all fire certifications to minimally meet the current applicable NFPA standard.
- Update reciprocity provisions for firefighter training certificates coming from another state to work in Michigan as a firefighter.
- Update reciprocity provisions for training certificates for honorably discharged military veterans working in Michigan as firefighters.

- Establish a process to elect County Training Chairpersons.
- Establish a process to suspend or remove certificates.
- Establish continuing education requirements for all members of the fire service.

Stakeholder Engagement

As provided in Public Act 291 of 1966, the State Fire Marshal worked with members of the Michigan Firefighters Training Council (MFFTC) to develop the Firefighters Training Council General Rules. All nine [members](#) of the MFFTC participated in the rulemaking process. The following groups are represented in the make-up of the nine member MFFTC:

- Michigan State Firemen's Association
- Michigan Fire Service Instructors Association
- Michigan Professional Fire Fighters Union
- Michigan Fire Inspectors Society
- Michigan Municipal League
- State Fire Marshal's office.

The rules were developed during scheduled work sessions and bi-monthly MFFTC regular meetings. Here is a [link](#) to the meeting minutes. There was a public comment period prior to the conclusion of every work session or MFFTC meeting.

Public Engagement and Public Hearing/Comment/Information

In addition to the public comments received during the abovementioned meetings, on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 11:00 a.m., a public hearing was held via Zoom for the Firefighters Training Council General Rules. The public comment period was open from March 1, 2021 to March 24, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. The department received 110 written comments and 53 individuals spoke at the public hearing.

Modifications Made Due to Public Comment

On April 28, 2021, all nine (9) members of the MFFTC met to consider the public comments received during the March 24th hearing and in writing. Based on the comments received, the following three (3) topics were identified for possible changes or clarification:

1. Reciprocity for fire certifications for members of the Michigan fire service who gain training from an accredited source in state and out of state.
2. Virtual training options for MFFTC courses to offer flexibility for firefighters and fire departments to complete training certification.
3. Continuing education requirements include 12 hours per year for every member of a fire department, individuals that are certified Fire Instructors will need to

complete 12 hours every three years and individuals that are certified Fire Officers will need to complete 12 hours every three (3) years.

The MFFTC members discussed these topics and made changes to the appropriate sections of the rules to address concerns from public comment and the primary fire service organizations.

Significant Issues Not Incorporated in the Final Proposed Rules

All significant issues in the rules making process were addressed by the nine members of the MFFTC during work sessions and regularly scheduled bi-monthly MFFTC meetings that occurred between February 2018 and the final work session on April 28, 2021 to review and consider public comment received from the public hearing on March 24, 2021.

cc/att: Orlene Hawks, Director, LARA
 Kim Gaedeke, Chief Deputy Director, LARA
 Adam Sandoval, Deputy Director, LARA
 Courtney Pendleton, Deputy Director, LARA
 Kevin J. Sehlmeier, State Fire Marshal/Director, LARA BFS
 Elizabeth Arasim, Regulatory Affairs Officer, LARA