

CHAPTER 2025-124

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 929

An act relating to firefighter health and safety; amending s. 633.506, F.S.; revising legislative intent; amending s. 633.508, F.S.; requiring the Division of State Fire Marshal within the Department of Financial Services to adopt certain rules; requiring the division to assist in decreasing the frequency of fatalities; defining the term “readily available”; amending s. 633.520, F.S.; requiring the division to adopt rules relating to education on chemical hazards or toxic substances and mental health best practices; amending ss. 633.522 and 633.526, F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 633.506, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

633.506 Legislative intent.—It is the intent of the Legislature to enhance firefighter occupational safety and health in this the state through the implementation and maintenance of policies, procedures, practices, rules, work schedules, and standards that reduce the incidence of firefighter employee accidents, firefighter employee occupational diseases, and firefighter employee fatalities compensable under chapter 112, chapter 440, or otherwise. The Legislature further intends that the division develop a means by which the division can identify individual firefighter employers with a high frequency or severity of work-related injuries, occupational diseases, or suicide; conduct safety inspections of those firefighter employers; and assist those firefighter employers in the development and implementation of firefighter employee safety and health programs. In addition, it is the intent of the Legislature that the division administer and enforce this part; provide assistance to firefighter employers, firefighter employees, and insurers; and enforce the policies, rules, and standards set forth in this part.

Section 2. Subsection (7) of section 633.508, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (8), subsection (1) and paragraph (a) of present subsection (7) are amended, and a new subsection (7) is added to that section, to read:

633.508 Workplace safety; rulemaking authority; division authority.—

(1) The division shall assist in making the firefighter employee place of employment a safer place to work and decreasing the frequency and severity of on-the-job injuries and the frequency of fatalities in such workplace.

(7) The division shall adopt rules relating to all of the following:

(a) Requiring firefighter employers to purchase firefighting gear that does not contain chemical hazards or toxic substances when such gear becomes readily available on the commercial market. For purposes of this

paragraph, “readily available” means available from more than one manufacturer. Rules adopted pursuant to this paragraph may recommend a phased-in approach for firefighting gear replacement.

(b) Requiring firefighter employers that issue firefighting gear that contains or is manufactured with chemical hazards or toxic substances to provide their firefighter employees notice that the firefighting gear issued may contain or be manufactured with chemical hazards or toxic substances.

(c) Encouraging firefighter employers to implement work schedules that do not require a firefighter employee’s normally scheduled shifts to exceed 42 hours per workweek.

(8)(7) The department shall:

(a) Investigate and prescribe by rule what safety devices, safeguards, or other means of protection must be adopted for the prevention of accidents and injuries in every firefighter employee place of employment or at any fire scene; determine what suitable devices, safeguards, or other means of protection for the prevention of occupational diseases must be adopted or followed in any or all such firefighter places of employment or at any emergency fire scene; and adopt reasonable rules for the prevention of accidents, the safety, protection, and security of firefighter employees engaged in interior firefighting, and the prevention of occupational diseases and fatalities.

Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 633.520, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

633.520 Safety; firefighter employer responsibilities.—

(2) The division shall adopt rules to establish:

(a) Employers’ cancer prevention best practices related to personal protective equipment, chemical hazards or toxic substance education regarding personal protective equipment, decontamination, fire suppression equipment, and fire stations.

(b) Employers’ mental health best practices related to resiliency, stress management, peer support, and access to mental healthcare.

Section 4. Subsection (1), paragraph (b) of subsection (2), and paragraph (c) of subsection (3) of section 633.522, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

633.522 Firefighter employers; high frequency of work-related injuries; corrective plans; workplace safety committees and coordinators; failure to implement a safety and health program; cancellation.—

(1) The division shall develop a means to identify individual firefighter employers with a high frequency of firefighter employee work-related

injuries and suicide. The division shall conduct safety inspections of those firefighter employers so identified to ensure compliance with this part or the division's rules and make recommendations based upon current safety and health practices and to assist such firefighter employers in reducing the number of work-related injuries and suicide. The division may not assess penalties as a result of such inspections. Copies of any report made as the result of such an inspection shall be provided to the firefighter employer and its insurer. Firefighter employers shall submit a plan for the correction of any noncompliance issues to the division for approval in accordance with division rule. The division shall promptly review the plan submitted and approve or disapprove the plan within 60 days, or such plan shall be deemed approved. Upon approval by the division, the plan shall be implemented by the firefighter employer. If the plan is not submitted, does not provide corrective actions for all deficiencies, is not complete, or is not implemented, the fire service provider shall be subject to s. 633.526.

(2) In order to promote health and safety in firefighter employee places of employment in this state:

(b) Each firefighter employer of fewer than 20 firefighter employees with a high frequency or high severity of work-related injuries or a high frequency of work-related fatalities, as identified by the division, shall establish and administer a workplace safety committee or designate a workplace safety coordinator who shall establish and administer workplace safety activities in accordance with rules adopted under this section.

(3) The division shall adopt rules:

(c) Prescribing the duties and functions of the workplace safety committee and workplace safety coordinator which include, but are not limited to:

1. Establishing procedures for workplace safety inspections by the committee.
2. Establishing procedures for investigating all workplace accidents, safety-related incidents, illnesses, and deaths.
3. Evaluating accident prevention, ~~and illness prevention,~~ and suicide prevention programs.
4. Prescribing guidelines for the training of safety committee members.

Section 5. Section 633.526, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

633.526 Firefighter employer penalties.—If any firefighter employer violates or fails or refuses to comply with this part, or with any rule adopted by the division under such sections in accordance with chapter 120 for the prevention of injuries, accidents, or occupational diseases or with any lawful order of the division in connection with this part, or fails or refuses to furnish or adopt any safety device, safeguard, or other means of protection

prescribed by division rule under this part for the prevention of accidents, injuries, fatalities, or occupational diseases, the division may:

(1) Issue an administrative cease and desist order, enforceable in the circuit court in the jurisdiction where the violation is occurring or has occurred.

(2) Assess an administrative fine against a firefighter employer of not less than \$100 or more than \$1,000 for each violation and each day a violation is committed.

(3) Assess against the firefighter employer a civil penalty of not less than \$100 nor more than \$5,000 for each day the violation, omission, failure, or refusal continues after the firefighter employer has been given written notice of such violation, omission, failure, or refusal. The total penalty for each violation shall not exceed \$50,000. The division shall adopt rules requiring penalties commensurate with the frequency or severity of safety violations. Hearings requested under this section shall be conducted in Tallahassee. All penalties assessed and collected under this section shall be deposited in the Insurance Regulatory Trust Fund.

Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor June 5, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 5, 2025.