

Senate Bill 308

By: Senator Mullis of the 53rd

**AS PASSED**

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
2 firefighter standards and training, so as to provide definitions; to provide for certain powers  
3 and functions of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council with regard to  
4 airport firefighters; to provide for certain training for airport firefighters; to repeal Article 2  
5 of such chapter, relating to airport firefighters; to provide for related matters; to repeal  
6 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 4 of Title 25 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to firefighter  
10 standards and training, is amended by striking Code Section 25-4-2, relating to definitions,  
11 and inserting in lieu thereof a new Code Section 25-4-2 to read as follows:

12 "25-4-2.

13 As used in this chapter, the term:

14 (1) 'Airport' means any airport located in this state which has regularly scheduled  
15 commercial air carrier service or commuter airline service as required for certification  
16 under Section 139.49 of the Federal Aviation Administration regulations.

17 (2) 'Airport firefighter' means any person assigned to any airport located in this state who  
18 performs the duties of aircraft fire fighting or rescue.

19 ~~(1)~~(3) 'Candidate' means a prospective firefighter who has not yet been certified by the  
20 council as having met the requirements of this chapter.

21 ~~(2)~~(4) 'Certified firefighter' or 'state certified firefighter' means any firefighter who has  
22 been certified by the council as having met the requirements of this chapter.

23 ~~(3)~~(5) 'Council' means the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council.

24 ~~(4)~~(6) 'Firefighter' means a trained individual who is a full-time employee, part-time  
25 employee, or volunteer for a municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire  
26 department and as such has duties of responding to mitigate a variety of emergency and

1 nonemergency situations where life, property, or the environment is at risk, which may  
 2 include without limitation fire suppression; fire prevention activities; emergency medical  
 3 services; hazardous materials response and preparedness; technical rescue operations;  
 4 search and rescue; disaster management and preparedness; community service activities;  
 5 response to civil disturbances and terrorism incidents; nonemergency functions including  
 6 training, preplanning, communications, maintenance, and physical conditioning; and  
 7 other related emergency and nonemergency duties as may be assigned or required;  
 8 provided, however, that a firefighter's assignments may vary based on geographic,  
 9 climatic, and demographic conditions or other factors including training, experience, and  
 10 ability.

11 ~~(5)~~(7) 'Full-time' means employed for compensation on a basis of at least 40 hours per  
 12 week by any municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department.

13 ~~(6)~~(8) 'Part-time' means employed for compensation on less than a full-time basis by any  
 14 municipal, county, state, or private incorporated fire department.

15 ~~(7)~~(9) 'Volunteer' means not employed for compensation by but appointed and regularly  
 16 enrolled to serve as a firefighter for any municipal, county, state, or private incorporated  
 17 fire department."

## 18 SECTION 2.

19 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 25-4-7, relating to the functions  
 20 and powers of the Georgia Firefighter Standards and Training Council, and inserting in lieu  
 21 thereof a new Code Section 25-4-7 to read as follows:

22 "25-4-7.

23 The council is vested with the following functions and powers:

- 24 (1) To promulgate rules and regulations for the administration of the council;
- 25 (2) To provide rules of procedure for its internal management and control;
- 26 (3) To enter into contracts or do such things as may be necessary and incidental to the  
 27 administration of its authority pursuant to this chapter;
- 28 (4) To establish uniform minimum standards for the employment and training of  
 29 full-time, part-time, or volunteer firefighters, airport firefighters, fire and life safety  
 30 educators, fire inspectors, and fire investigators, including qualifications, certifications,  
 31 recertifications, decertifications, and requirements, which are consistent with this chapter;
- 32 (5) To establish minimum curriculum requirements for schools operated by or for any  
 33 employing agency for the specific purpose of training firefighter recruits or full-time,  
 34 part-time, or volunteer firefighters, airport firefighters, fire and life safety educators, fire  
 35 inspectors, and fire investigators;

1 (6) To approve institutions and facilities for school operation by or for any employing  
 2 agency for the specific purpose of training firefighters and firefighter recruits, including  
 3 airport firefighters;

4 (7) To make or support studies on any aspect of fire-fighting education and training or  
 5 recruitment;

6 (8) To make recommendations concerning any matter within its purview;

7 (9) To establish basic firefighter training requirements for full-time, part-time, and  
 8 volunteer firefighters, including airport firefighters;

9 (10) To certify any person satisfactorily complying with the training program established  
 10 in accordance with paragraph (9) of this Code section and the qualifications for  
 11 employment covered in this chapter; and

12 (11) To issue a certificate to any person who has received training in another state or  
 13 who has received training as a federal firefighter by the United States government, when  
 14 the council has determined that the training was at least equivalent to that required by the  
 15 council for approved firefighter education and training programs in this state and when  
 16 the person has satisfactorily complied with all other requirements of this chapter."

### 17 SECTION 3.

18 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 25-4-9, relating to basic firefighter  
 19 training courses, and inserting in lieu thereof a new Code Section 25-4-9 to read as follows:

20 "25-4-9.

21 (a) Full-time, part-time, and volunteer firefighters, including airport firefighters, shall  
 22 successfully complete a basic training course. The council shall determine the course  
 23 content, number of hours, and all other matters relative to basic firefighter training,  
 24 including airport rescue firefighter training. Upon satisfactory completion of such basic  
 25 training, a firefighter shall be issued a certificate of completion evidencing the same. Each  
 26 firefighter shall be required to successfully complete such basic training course within 12  
 27 months after being employed or appointed as a firefighter or, in the case of airport  
 28 firefighters, within such time period as the council may prescribe by rule or regulation.

29 (b) A firefighter certified by the council may, upon termination of employment from any  
 30 fire department and upon agreement with a subsequently employing fire department,  
 31 transfer such certification to the employing fire department.

32 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section, any local fire  
 33 department may refuse to accept the transfer of previously acquired certification and may  
 34 require any newly employed firefighter to complete the basic training course provided for  
 35 in subsection (a) of this Code section."

1 **SECTION 4.**

2 Said chapter is further amended by repealing Article 2, relating to airport firefighters, in its  
3 entirety and by deleting the Article 1 designation.

4 **SECTION 5.**

5 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.