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FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 748

H.P. 501

House of Representatives, March 5, 2015

An Act To Provide for Tiered Qualifications for Volunteer Firefighters in Certain Municipalities

Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative HEAD of Bethel.

Cosponsored by Representatives: HAMANN of South Portland, PETERSON of Rumford, VACHON of Scarborough.

1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows: 2 **Sec. 1. 26 MRSA §2102, sub-§3** is enacted to read: 3 3. Municipalities of fewer than 2,500 permanent residents. The fire chief of a fire department in a municipality with fewer than 2,500 permanent residents, with the 4 approval of the municipal officers of that municipality, may approve training for 5 volunteer firefighters in accordance with Title 30-A, section 3154, subsection 4. 6 7 **Sec. 2. 30-A MRSA §3154, sub-§4** is enacted to read: 8 4. Tiers of volunteer firefighters. In a municipality with fewer than 2,500 permanent residents, the fire chief, with the approval of the municipal officers of that 9 municipality, may approve training for volunteer firefighters that provides for 3 tiers of 10 qualifications based on the requirements of Title 26, chapter 28. At the highest tier, the 11 municipality must have at least 3 firefighters who meet the highest level training 12 requirement. At the middle tier, the municipality must have firefighters trained to a 13 14 middle level and who are qualified to perform all firefighter services except for entry into 15 a burning building. At the lowest tier, the municipality must have firefighters trained to a basic level and who are qualified to perform basic firefighter duties including, but not 16 17 limited to, handling fire hoses, trucks and equipment. 18 SUMMARY 19 This bill provides that in a municipality with fewer than 2,500 permanent residents 20 the fire chief, with the approval of the municipal officers of that municipality, may approve training for volunteer firefighters that provides for 3 tiers of qualifications as 21 22. follows: 23 1. At the highest tier 3 firefighters; 24 2. At the middle tier firefighters who are trained and who are qualified to perform all 25 firefighter services except for entry into a burning building; and

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equipment.

3. At the lowest tier firefighters who are trained and who are qualified to perform

basic firefighter duties including, but not limited to, handling fire hoses, trucks and