

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Educational Credit for Firefighting Experience Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Firefighter" means either a career or volunteer  
8 firefighter.

9 "Institution of higher education" means the University of  
10 Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Chicago State  
11 University, Eastern Illinois University, Governors State  
12 University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois  
13 University, Northern Illinois University, Western Illinois  
14 University, a public community college that is included in the  
15 definition of "Community Colleges" under Section 1-2 of the  
16 Public Community College Act, and any institution that  
17 receives funds under Section 35 of the Higher Education  
18 Student Assistance Act.

19 Section 10. Policies and procedures.

20 (a) Before June 1, 2027, each institution of higher  
21 education with an applicable program that offers at least one  
22 course for credit hours recommended for equivalency by a

1 national higher education association that provides credit  
2 recommendations for firefighting training courses and programs  
3 shall adopt a policy regarding its awarding of academic credit  
4 for firefighter training considered applicable to the  
5 requirements of a student's certificate or degree program. The  
6 policy shall apply to any individual who is enrolled in the  
7 institution of higher education and who has successfully  
8 completed a firefighting training course or program as part of  
9 his or her firefighting service that is:

10 (1) recommended for credit by a national higher  
11 education association that provides credit recommendations  
12 for firefighting training courses and programs; or

13 (2) otherwise documented as firefighting training or  
14 experience.

15 (b) Each institution of higher education shall develop a  
16 procedure for receiving the necessary documentation to  
17 identify and verify the firefighting training course or  
18 program that an individual is claiming for academic credit.

19 (c) Each institution of higher education shall provide a  
20 copy of its policy for awarding academic credit for  
21 firefighter training to any applicant who listed prior or  
22 present firefighting service in his or her admission  
23 application.

24 (d) Each institution of higher education shall develop and  
25 maintain a list of firefighting training courses and programs  
26 that have qualified for academic credit.

1       Section 15. Annual policy submission. Each institution of  
2       higher education shall submit its policy for awarding academic  
3       credit for firefighter training to the Board of Higher  
4       Education and the Illinois Community College Board, if  
5       applicable, by March 31, 2027 and by March 31 of each year  
6       thereafter for the policy that is effective in the subsequent  
7       fall semester. The policy shall be incorporated into the  
8       institution's credit for prior learning policies required to  
9       be submitted pursuant to the Credit for Prior Learning Act.