

SB2219



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB2219

Introduced 2/7/2025, by Sen. Cristina Castro

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 2905/3
50 ILCS 742/50

from Ch. 127 1/2, par. 3

Amends the State Fire Marshal Act. Provides that the Illinois Fire Advisory Commission may, at the call of the Chair, meet in person or remotely. Amends the Fire Department Promotion Act. Provides that the Joint Labor and Management Committee that establishes the standards for certification in subjects and skills related to the fire service may, at the call of the Chair, meet in person or remotely.

LRB104 08949 RTM 19004 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning fire departments.

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

4 Section 5. The State Fire Marshal Act is amended by
5 changing Section 3 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 2905/3) (from Ch. 127 1/2, par. 3)

7 Sec. 3. There is created the Illinois Fire Advisory
8 Commission which shall advise the Office in the exercise of
9 its powers and duties. The Commission shall be appointed by
10 the Governor as follows:

11 (1) 3 professional, full-time paid firefighters;

12 (2) one volunteer firefighter;

13 (3) one Fire Protection Engineer who is registered in
14 Illinois;

15 (4) one person who is a representative of the fire
16 insurance industry in Illinois;

17 (5) one person who is a representative of a registered
18 United States Department of Labor apprenticeship program
19 primarily instructing in the installation and repair of
20 fire extinguishing systems;

21 (6) one licensed operating or stationary engineer who
22 has an associate degree in facilities engineering
23 technology and has knowledge of the operation and

1 maintenance of fire alarm and fire extinguishing systems
2 primarily for the life safety of occupants in a variety of
3 commercial or residential structures; and

4 (7) 3 persons with an interest in and knowledgeable
5 about fire prevention methods.

6 In addition, the following shall serve as ex officio
7 members of the Commission: the Chicago Fire Commissioner, or
8 his or her designee; the executive officer, or his or her
9 designee, of each of the following organizations: the Illinois
10 Fire Chiefs Association, the Illinois Fire Protection District
11 Association, the Illinois Fire Inspectors Association, the
12 Illinois Professional Firefighters Association, the Illinois
13 Firemen's Association, the Associated Firefighters of
14 Illinois, the Illinois Society of Fire Service Instructors,
15 the Illinois Chapter of the International Association of Arson
16 Investigators, the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS)
17 Illinois, and the Fire Service Institute, University of
18 Illinois.

19 The Governor shall designate, at the time of appointment,
20 3 members to serve terms expiring on the third Monday in
21 January, 1979; 3 members to serve terms expiring the third
22 Monday in January, 1980; and 2 members to serve terms expiring
23 the third Monday in January, 1981. The additional member
24 appointed by the Governor pursuant to Public Act 85-718 shall
25 serve for a term expiring the third Monday in January, 1990.
26 Thereafter, all terms shall be for 3 years. A member shall

1 serve until his or her successor is appointed and qualified. A
2 vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term.

3 The Governor shall designate one of the appointed members
4 to be chairperson of the Commission.

5 The Commission may, at the call of the Chair, meet in
6 person or remotely.

7 Members shall serve without compensation but shall be
8 reimbursed for their actual reasonable expenses incurred in
9 the performance of their duties.

10 (Source: P.A. 101-234, eff. 8-9-19; 102-269, eff. 8-6-21;
11 102-558, eff. 8-20-21; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22.)

12 Section 10. The Fire Department Promotion Act is amended
13 by changing Section 50 as follows:

14 (50 ILCS 742/50)

15 Sec. 50. Subjective evaluation.

16 (a) A promotion test may include subjective evaluation
17 components. Subjective evaluations may include an oral
18 interview, tactical evaluation, performance evaluation, or
19 other component based on subjective evaluation of the
20 examinee. The methods used for subjective evaluations may
21 include using any employee assessment centers, evaluation
22 systems, chief's points, or other methods.

23 (b) Any subjective component shall be identified to all
24 candidates prior to its application, be job-related, and be

1 applied uniformly to all candidates. Every examinee shall have
2 the right to documentation of his or her score on the
3 subjective component upon the completion of the subjective
4 examination component or its application. A designated
5 representative of the contracting union party shall be
6 notified and be entitled to be present to monitor any
7 preliminary meeting between certified assessors or
8 representatives of a testing agency and representatives of the
9 appointing authority held prior to the administration of the
10 test to candidates for promotion.

11 (c) Where chief's points or other subjective methods are
12 employed that are not amenable to monitoring, monitors shall
13 not be required, but any disputes as to the results of such
14 methods shall be subject to resolution in accordance with any
15 collectively bargained grievance procedure in effect at the
16 time of the test.

17 (d) Where performance evaluations are used as a basis for
18 promotions, they shall be given annually and made readily
19 available to each candidate for review and they shall include
20 any disagreement or documentation the employee provides to
21 refute or contest the evaluation. These annual evaluations are
22 not subject to grievance procedures, unless used for points in
23 the promotion process.

24 (e) Total points awarded for subjective components shall
25 be posted before the written examination is administered and
26 before the promotion list is compiled.

1 (f) Persons selected to grade candidates for promotion
2 during an assessment center process shall be impartial
3 professionals who have undergone training to be certified
4 assessors. The training and certification requirements shall,
5 at a minimum, provide that, to obtain and maintain
6 certification, assessors shall complete a course of basic
7 training, subscribe to a code of ethical conduct, complete
8 continuing education, and satisfy minimum activity levels.

9 (g) The standards for certification shall be established
10 by a Joint Labor and Management Committee (JLMC) composed of 4
11 members: 2 designated by a statewide association whose
12 membership is predominantly fire chiefs representing
13 management interests of the Illinois fire service, and 2
14 designated by a statewide labor organization that is a
15 representative of sworn or commissioned firefighters in
16 Illinois. Members may serve terms of one year subject to
17 reappointment. The Joint Labor and Management Committee may,
18 at the call of the Chair, meet in person or remotely.

19 For the purposes of this Section, the term "statewide
20 labor organization" has the meaning ascribed to it in Section
21 10-3-12 of the Illinois Municipal Code.

22 In developing certification standards the JLMC may seek
23 the advice and counsel of professionals and experts and may
24 appoint an advisory committee.

25 The JLMC may charge reasonable fees that are related to
26 the costs of administering authorized programs and conducting

1 classes, including without limitation the costs of monitoring
2 programs and classes, to the following: (i) applicants for
3 certifications or recertifications, (ii) recipients of
4 certifications or recertifications, and (iii) individuals and
5 entities approved by the JLMC to conduct programs or classes.

6 The JLMC's initial certification standards shall be
7 submitted to the Office of the State Fire Marshal by January 1,
8 2009. The JLMC may provisionally certify persons who have
9 prior experience as assessors on promotional examinations in
10 the fire service. Effective January 1, 2010 only those persons
11 who meet the certification standards developed by the JLMC and
12 submitted to the Office of the State Fire Marshal may be
13 selected to grade candidates on a subjective component of a
14 promotional examination conducted under the authority of this
15 Act; provided this requirement shall be waived for persons
16 employed or appointed by the jurisdiction administering the
17 examination.

18 The JLMC shall annually:

19 (1) issue public notice offering persons who are
20 interested in qualifying as certified assessors the
21 opportunity to enroll in training; and

22 (2) submit to the Office of the State Fire Marshal an
23 amended list of persons who remain certified, are newly
24 certified, or who are no longer certified.

25 (h) The Office of the State Fire Marshal shall support the
26 program by adopting certification standards based on those

1 submitted by the JLMC and by establishing a roster of
2 certified assessors composed of persons certified by the JLMC.

3 If the parties have not agreed to contract with a
4 particular testing company to provide certified assessors,
5 either party may request the Office to provide the names of
6 certified assessors. Within 7 days after receiving a request
7 from either party for a list of certified assessors, the
8 Office shall select at random from the roster of certified
9 assessors a panel numbering not less than 2 times the number of
10 assessors required. The parties shall augment the number by a
11 factor of 50% by designating assessors who may serve as
12 alternates to the primary assessors.

13 The parties shall select assessors from the list or lists
14 provided by the Office or from the panel obtained by the
15 testing company as provided above. Within 7 days following the
16 receipt of the list, the parties shall notify the Office of the
17 assessors they have selected. Unless the parties agree on an
18 alternate selection procedure, they shall alternatively strike
19 names from the list provided by the Office until only the
20 number of required assessors remain. A coin toss shall
21 determine which party strikes the first name. If the parties
22 fail to notify the Office in a timely manner of their selection
23 of assessors, the Office shall appoint the assessors required
24 from the roster of certified assessors. In the event an
25 assessor is not able to participate in the assessment center
26 process for which he was selected, either of the parties

1 involved in the promotion process may request that additional
2 names of certified assessors be provided by the Office.

3 (Source: P.A. 97-174, eff. 7-22-11.)