

1 **Senate Bill No. 343**

2 (By Senators Laird, Kessler (Mr. President), Unger, Klempa, Nohe,
3 Browning, Plymale, Yost, Jenkins and Beach)

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5 [Introduced January 18, 2012; referred to the Committee on
6 Government Organization; and then to the Committee on Finance.]

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11 A BILL to amend and reenact §8-15-8a of the Code of West Virginia,
12 1931, as amended, relating to the eligibility of volunteer or
13 part-volunteer fire companies or departments to allocation
14 from municipal pensions and protection fund and the Fire
15 Protection Fund; providing a grace period for these volunteer
16 fire companies or departments to comply with submission of
17 data; and requiring the State Fire Marshal to notify these
18 volunteer fire companies or departments of the dates and grace
19 period.

20 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

21 That §8-15-8a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
22 be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

23 **ARTICLE 15. FIRE FIGHTING; FIRE COMPANIES AND DEPARTMENTS; CIVIL**
24 **SERVICE FOR PAID FIRE DEPARTMENTS.**

1 **§8-15-8a. Eligibility for allocation from municipal pensions and**
2 **protection fund and the Fire Protection Fund.**

3 In order to be eligible to receive revenues allocated from the
4 municipal pensions and protection fund or the Fire Protection Fund,
5 each volunteer or part volunteer fire company or department must
6 meet the requirements listed in subdivisions (a) through (c) of this
7 section.

8 Each volunteer or part volunteer fire company or department
9 must:

10 (a) Submit and maintain current submission of fire loss data
11 to the State Fire Marshal, including verification, by notarized
12 statement, if no fire loss has occurred;

13 (b) Complete or be in the process of receiving firefighters
14 training, including section one of the West Virginia University fire
15 service extension or its equivalent. ~~Such~~ The fire company or
16 department must have at least ten members certified as having
17 completed ~~such~~ the training or if a volunteer fire company or
18 department has twenty or fewer members, fifty percent of the active
19 volunteer members must have completed such training; and

20 (c) Comply with all applicable federal and state laws.

21 (d) Each volunteer or part volunteer fire company or department
22 shall have a grace period of one fiscal quarter, or three months,
23 beyond the allocation date in which to comply with submission
24 requirements to the State Fire Marshal. The State Fire Marshal

1 shall notify each volunteer or part volunteer fire company or
2 department of the due date for submitting the information required
3 by this section and the grace period. The Fire Marshal shall use
4 every means available to notify each volunteer or part volunteer
5 fire company or department in order to ensure timely compliance with
6 this section.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide a grace period for volunteer fire companies or departments to comply with submission of data in order to meet eligibility requirements to receive allocations from municipal pensions and protection fund and the Fire Protection Fund. The bill also requires the State Fire Marshal to notify these volunteer fire companies or departments of the dates and grace period.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.