

Senate Bill No. 617

(By Senators Klempa and Yost)

[Introduced February 16, 2012; referred to the Committee on Government Organization; and then to the Committee on Finance.]

**FISCAL
NOTE**

A BILL to amend and reenact §29-3-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to adding an electrician and a sprinkler fitter to the State Fire Commission.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §29-3-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 3. FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT.

§29-3-3. State Fire Commission created; composition; qualifications; appointment; terms of office; removal; vacancies; compensation and expenses.

(a) There is hereby created a State Fire Commission, which shall consist of ~~thirteen~~ fifteen members, qualified by experience and training to deal with the matters which are the responsibilities of the commission. The officers of the West

1 Virginia fire chiefs association, the West Virginia firemen's
2 association, the West Virginia professional fire fighters
3 association, the West Virginia professional fire chiefs
4 association, the West Virginia manufacturers association, the
5 professional independent insurance agents of West Virginia, and the
6 West Virginia society of architects shall submit a list of names of
7 persons recommended by each of these associations to the Governor
8 for consideration in appointing the State Fire Commission. The
9 West Virginia professional fire fighters association and the West
10 Virginia professional fire chiefs association shall recommend the
11 names of two persons from full-time paid fire departments. The
12 West Virginia fire chiefs association and the West Virginia
13 firemen's association shall each recommend the names of three
14 persons from volunteer fire departments. The West Virginia
15 manufacturers association shall recommend the names of three
16 persons to represent business and industry. The professional
17 independent insurance agents of West Virginia shall recommend the
18 names of two persons to represent the fire insurance industry. The
19 West Virginia society of architects shall recommend the names of
20 two persons to represent registered architects. Appointments to
21 the commission shall be made by the Governor, by and with the
22 advice and consent of the Senate, from the lists of qualified
23 persons recommended by the organizations. Three members shall be
24 appointed to represent full-time paid fire departments, one member

1 shall be appointed to represent the full-time paid fire chiefs,
2 three members shall be appointed to represent volunteer fire
3 departments and two members shall be appointed to represent the
4 volunteer fire chiefs. Two members shall be appointed to represent
5 business and industry and one member shall be appointed to
6 represent the fire insurance industry. One member shall be
7 appointed to represent registered architects. The West Virginia
8 State Electrical Workers Association shall recommend the name of a
9 master or journeyman electrician. The West Virginia State Pipe
10 Trades Association shall recommend the name of a journeyman
11 sprinkler fitter. The term of office of the members shall be
12 staggered five-year terms. The terms of members first appointed
13 shall expire as designated by the Governor at the time of
14 appointment, two at the end of one year, two at the end of two
15 years, three at the end of three years, two at the end of four
16 years and two at the end of five years. Vacancies shall be filled
17 in the same manner as the original appointment but only for the
18 remainder of a term. Any member is subject to removal by the
19 Governor at any time for neglect of his or her duties or other
20 conduct unbecoming his or her office. The Governor shall make the
21 appointments within ninety days after this section takes effect.

22 (b) The members of the State Fire Commission shall serve
23 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for their reasonable
24 and necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance of

1 their duties.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to increase the State Fire Commission from thirteen members to fifteen members by adding an electrician and a sprinkler fitter.

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