CHAPTER 45 HB 1130-FN – FINAL VERSION

19Mar2014... 0955h

2014 SESSION

14-2208 08/03

HOUSE BILL 1130-FN

AN ACT relative to the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact.

SPONSORS: Rep. Chandler, Carr 1; Rep. Renzullo, Hills 37; Rep. Goley, Hills 8;

Rep. H. Richardson, Coos 4; Sen. Forrester, Dist 2; Sen. Odell, Dist 8;

Sen. Woodburn, Dist 1

COMMITTEE: Resources, Recreation and Development

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- I. Extends liability protection to New Hampshire firefighters who travel to fight fires outside of the Northeastern Compact states and provinces.
 - II. Changes the reimbursement process for municipalities when a fire occurs on federal property.
 - III. Allows certain retirees to work beyond 32 hours weekly in emergency situations.

This bill is a request of the department of resources and economic development, division of forest and lands.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in bold italics.

Matter removed from current law appears [in brackets and struckthrough.]

Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Fourteen

AN ACT relative to the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 45:1 New Article; Inter-Compact Liability. Amend RSA 227-L:26 by inserting after article XIV the following new article:

3 Article XV

The provisions of Article IX of this compact which relate to mutual aid in combating, controlling, or preventing forest fires shall be operative as between any state party to this compact and any other state which is party to a regional forest fire protection compact in another region: Provided that the legislature of such other state shall have given its assent to such mutual aid provisions of this compact.

- 45:2 Fire Control Payments on Federal Lands. Amend RSA 227-L:21, I to read as follows:
- I. The expenses lawfully incurred by a forest fire warden or other authorized local fire official in the extinguishment of woodland fires on the White Mountain National Forest or other federal land within the state under a cooperative forest fire protection agreement with the state computed at rates [within limits established] approved in writing by the director and excluding the initial costs of firefighting equipment shall be paid in the first instance by the state.
- 45:3 New Section; Certain Part-Time Employment; Emergency Exception. Amend RSA 100-A by inserting after section 7-a the following new section:
- 100-A:7-b Certain Part-Time Employment; Emergency Exception. The hourly limitations on part-time employment as defined in RSA 100-A:1, XXXIV shall be modified for retired members who exceed the 32-hour limit while providing assistance during an emergency under this section. While providing assistance during an emergency under this section, a retired member may exceed the 32-hour limit in a calendar week provided that the member has not exceeded 1300 hours in the current calendar year. For purposes of this section, an emergency includes any event declared by the governor or while working under the direction of the director of the division of forests and lands during woodland fire control.
 - 45:4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

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- 27 Approved: May 27, 2014
- 28 Effective Date: July 26, 2014