



FACT SHEET

Kentucky Fire Commission *Minimum Training Standards And Administrative Spending* Legislative Oversight And Investigations Committee Research Report No. 495

Report Highlights

Highlights

- The Kentucky Fire Commission's certification program complies with the standards set forth by the National Fire Protection Association.
 - However, the commission cannot require firefighters to undergo certification testing. That decision is left to local governments. Without testing, the commission lacks the ability to evaluate whether firefighters have acquired the knowledge and skills required by NFPA standards.
- The commission reduced the number of training hours for certification because volunteer firefighters struggled to fulfill hour requirements. While the commission is allowed to reduce hours, it did not issue administration regulations to reduce hours.
- The commission uses its minimum training standards as a prime eligibility requirement for local fire departments to access commission programs and funding.
- Statutes limiting administrative expenses do not provide a definition for administrative expenses. While the commission's interpretation of administrative expenses is reasonable, it may not match the General Assembly's intent.
- The commission is compliant with a statutory spending limit placed on its annual allotment from the Firefighters Foundation Program fund.

Recommendations

- Since reducing hours, the Kentucky Fire Commission should promulgate administrative regulations to establish the minimum required training hours for both professional and volunteer firefighters. The regulations should be based on the standards for the new Basic I and Basic II certifications.
- The commission should work with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System to create a process for isolating the administrative costs of the commission's programs. This would allow the commission to confirm it is operating within statutory limits.

Matter for Legislative Consideration

- The General Assembly may wish to define what qualifies for administrative cost reimbursements to the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

Key Notes



Commission cannot require firefighters to undergo certification testing.



No required process to verify that firefighters meet standards.



Training hours reduced because volunteer firefighters struggled to meet requirements.



Administrative expenses not defined.