

NEW HAMPSHIRE BILL TEXT

AN ACT relative to firefighter services leave for state employees.

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill allows state employees who are certified volunteer wildland firefighters to have a leave of absence, with pay, to provide emergency assistance in other states under certain circumstances.

TEXT:

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

162:1 New Section; Firefighter Services Leave. Amend RSA 227-L by inserting after section 5 the following new section:

227-L:5-a Firefighter Services Leave.

I. Any state employee who is a certified volunteer wildland firefighter may, with the authorization of the employee's supervisor, be granted a leave of absence with pay to participate in wildland fire emergencies to include non-wildland fire emergencies in another state or province pursuant to an agreement with the following: The Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact and the United States federal government. Requests for assistance shall be received and dispatched via the department of resources and economic development, division of forests and lands.

II. An employee, under this section, after completing one year in state service, may be entitled to not more than 30 working days in any fiscal year for such duty. Each participating employee shall be paid the employee's regular pay plus overtime. Upon the employee's return, the division of forests and lands shall bill the agency that requested aid for all reimbursable costs incurred pursuant to the terms of the agreement with the Northeastern Interstate Forest Fire Protection Compact and/or the United States federal government. The division shall provide reimbursement to the departments for which the firefighter is employed.

III. All funds reimbursed for services provided under this section shall be deposited in the appropriate pay or overtime account of the agency for whom the state employee works.

IV. This section shall not apply to employees of the department of resources and economic development.

162:2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Effective Date: June 6, 2008