SENATE FILE 2086
BY COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3007)

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act authorizing schools to offer an elective junior fire
2    fighter program to students enrolled in grades eleven and
3    twelve.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 100B.7, subsection 2, Code 2026, is
2 amended by adding the following new paragraph:
3 NEW PARAGRAPH. *r.* (1) Allow a student who has successfully
4 completed the elective junior fire fighter program described
5 in section 280.37, submitted all necessary certification
6 registration and local verification forms, and paid all
7 applicable registration fees to sit for certification testing for
8 firefighter I certification.
9 (2) If a student attains passing scores on all examinations
10 necessary for firefighter I certification prior to the date the
11 student becomes eighteen years of age, then the administrator
12 shall not issue firefighter I certification to the student until
13 the student becomes eighteen years of age.
14 Sec. 2. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, Code 2026, is amended
15 by adding the following new paragraph:
16 NEW PARAGRAPH. *0w.* Be subject to and comply with the
17 requirements of section 280.37 relating to offering an elective
18 junior fire fighter program to students enrolled in grades eleven
19 and twelve in the same manner as a school district.
20 Sec. 3. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2026, is amended
21 by adding the following new paragraph:
22 NEW PARAGRAPH. *v.* Be subject to and comply with the
23 requirements of section 280.37 relating to offering an elective
24 junior fire fighter program to students enrolled in grades eleven
25 and twelve in the same manner as a school district.
26 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. **280.37 *Junior fire fighter program.***
27 1. The board of directors of each school district and the
28 authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school may
29 offer to students enrolled in grades eleven and twelve an
30 elective junior fire fighter program, either by establishing the
31 program and using the curriculum of a national organization that
32 provides a similar program or by partnering with a local fire
33 department, that meets all of the following requirements:
34 *a.* Is designed to prepare such students to sit for
35 certification testing from the fire service training bureau for

1 firefighter I certification.

2 *b.* Allows students to learn more about the work performed by
3 fire fighters and other emergency services providers in a safe
4 and controlled environment.

5 *c.* Provides students with valuable life skills, including
6 teamwork, leadership, responsibility, and commitment.

7 *d.* Fosters relationships between students and fire fighters
8 and other emergency services providers.

9 *e.* Promotes student participation in the fire services and
10 other emergency services fields after graduation.

11 2. If the board of directors of a school district or the
12 authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school offer
13 the elective junior fire fighter program, then the board of
14 directors of the school district or the authorities in charge of
15 the accredited nonpublic school shall coordinate with the fire
16 service training bureau and a local fire department to ensure
17 students are provided with the appropriate materials and skills
18 training to successfully complete all components necessary for
19 firefighter I certification, including the written certification
20 examination and the practical certification examination.

21 3. The board of directors of each school district and
22 the authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school
23 may offer the elective junior fire fighter program as an
24 extracurricular activity or as part of the career and technical
25 education curriculum under section 256.11, subsection 5,
26 paragraph *"h"*, subparagraph (1), subparagraph division (e).

27 4. To participate in the elective junior fire fighter
28 program, the student must submit to the school district or
29 accredited nonpublic school a waiver of liability on a form
30 provided by the school district or accredited nonpublic school
31 that has been executed by the student's parent or guardian, if
32 the student is a minor, or by the student, if the student is not
33 a minor or is an emancipated minor.

34                         EXPLANATION

35        The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

1 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

2 This bill authorizes school districts, accredited nonpublic
3 schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools to offer
4 to students enrolled in grades 11 and 12 an elective junior
5 fire fighter program, either by establishing the program and
6 using the curriculum of a national organization that provides a
7 similar program or by partnering with a local fire department,
8 that satisfies requirements established in the bill. If a school
9 offers the junior fire fighter program, the school is required to
10 coordinate with the fire service training bureau and a local fire
11 department to ensure students are provided with the appropriate
12 materials and skills training to successfully complete all
13 components necessary for firefighter I certification. The
14 junior fire fighter program may be offered as an extracurricular
15 activity or as part of the career and technical education
16 curriculum. The bill requires a student to submit an executed
17 waiver of liability to the school prior to participation in the
18 junior fire fighter program.
19 The bill requires the administrator of the fire service
20 training bureau to allow a student who has successfully completed
21 the junior fire fighter program, submitted all necessary
22 certification registration and local verification forms, and
23 paid all applicable registration fees to sit for certification
24 testing for firefighter I certification. If a student attains
25 passing scores on all examinations necessary for firefighter
26 I certification prior to the date the student turns 18 years
27 of age, then the administrator is prohibited from issuing
28 firefighter I certification to the student until the student
29 turns 18 years of age.