



# Firefighter Definition

Briefing  
June 28, 2023

# Issue

- **Some promotional positions within a fire department may be considered PERS positions by DRS, which may limit the employer's ability to fill those positions**

# What is a firefighter?

- Whether a person qualifies as a firefighter depends on who the employer is and the nature of the position
- Must work at a fire department
- Must be actively employed as a full-time firefighter
  - Must “direct or perform fire protection activities required for and directly concerned with preventing, controlling and extinguishing fires”
- Or must supervise firefighters

# Legislation - Promotional Firefighter Positions

- Sought to amend the definition of firefighter to include positions within a fire department that require an experienced firefighter
- SB 5468 - Passed through Senate Ways and Means
- HB 1279 – Did not receive a hearing

# Hypothetical Example 1 – Firefighter Trainers

- A Fire Department has full time firefighter trainer positions
- These positions do not supervise any LEOFF employees
- These positions are not required to respond to fire calls; however, they do have equipment assigned to them and are required to have an up-to-date mask fit test

# Hypothetical Example 2 – Management Position

- A regional fire authority has a position in charge of logistics (purchasing firefighting equipment, supplies, etc.) and supervising a group of non-LEOFF employees. The position requires an experienced firefighter due to their expertise of fire fighting
- The position is not required to respond to fire calls and therefore, does not have firefighting equipment assigned to them and has not completed a mask fit test

# Next Steps

- Board may receive a comprehensive briefing
- Board can wait to decide on further briefings until initial briefings on additional topics have been received



**Thank You**

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