

Alaska House of Representatives

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Sponsor Statement for House Bill 304

Alaska Fire Standards Council

"An Act relating to the membership of the Alaska Fire Standards Council."

House Bill 304 makes two changes to the membership of the Alaska Fire Standards Council (the Council): it designates an existing seat to a member of the Alaska Professional Fire Fighters Association and it adds a seat that must be filled by a member of the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association.

The mission of the Council is to establish (1) professional standards for fire service personnel and (2) curriculum requirements for the certification of training programs. The 11-member Council must include:

- two chief administrative officers or fire chiefs of local governments;
- four representatives of fire fighters (including at least one fire fighter administrative officer from the Alaska State Fire Fighters Association);
- two volunteer fire fighters (one from a community of less than 2,500; one from a community of greater than 2,500);
- two members of the public at-large (one from a community of less than 2,500; one from a community of greater than 2,500);
- The State Fire Marshall or his/her designee.

The Alaska Professional Fire Firefighters Association (APFFA), which is the Alaska affiliate of the International Association of Fire Fighters, represents roughly 500 professional career fire fighters throughout the state.

The mission of the Alaska Fire Chiefs Association (AFCA) is to serve the people of the State of Alaska by influencing fire and emergency service programs and legislation; advancement of fire and emergency services professionals; and providing for the safety and well-being of fire fighters and their communities.

Under HB 304, the Governor appoints one member of the APFFA and one member of the AFCA to the Council from "a list of at least three nominees submitted by each association."

The intent of HB 304 is to ensure that the APFFA and the AFCA are represented on the Alaska Fire Standards Council and to guarantee that the designees from these two important statewide fire firefighting groups can speak with the full confidence of their respective associations.