2021S0043-1 01/29/21

By:  Paxton S.B. No. 897

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the composition of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Section 419.004, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a)  The commission is composed of the following 13 members:

(1)  two members to be selected from a list of five names submitted by the Texas Fire Chiefs Association who are chief officers with a minimum rank that is equivalent to the position immediately below that of the fire chief and who are employed in fire departments as defined by Section 419.021 that are under the jurisdiction of the commission, at least one of whom must be the head of a fire department and one of whom must be employed by a political subdivision with a population of less than 100,000;

(2)  two members to be selected from a list of five names submitted by the Texas State Association of Fire Fighters who are fire protection personnel as defined by Section 419.021 with the rank of battalion chief or below and who are employed in fire departments or other appropriate local authorities under the jurisdiction of the commission, one of whom must be employed by a political subdivision with a population of less than 100,000;

(3)  two members to be selected from a list of five names submitted by the State Firemen's and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas who are volunteer fire chiefs or volunteer fire fighters;

(4)  one member who is a chief officer with a minimum rank that is equivalent to the position immediately below that of the fire chief, who is employed in a fire department as defined by Section 419.021 that is under the jurisdiction of the commission and that serves a population of 250,000 or more, and who is not a member of the Texas Fire Chiefs Association;

(5)  one certified fire protection engineer;

[~~(5) one certified arson investigator or certified fire protection inspector;~~]

(6)  one fire protection instructor from an institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Education Code; and

(7)  four public members.

(a-1)  One of the commission members must be a certified arson investigator or certified fire protection inspector.

SECTION 2.  The changes in law made by this Act to the qualifications of members of the Texas Commission on Fire Protection do not affect the entitlement of a member serving on the commission immediately before the effective date of this Act to continue as a member of the commission for the remainder of the member's term. The changes in law apply only to a member appointed on or after the effective date of this Act. This Act does not prohibit a person who is a member of the commission on the effective date of this Act from being reappointed to the commission if the person has the qualifications required for a member under Section 419.004, Government Code, as amended by this Act.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.