

HOUSE REPUBLICAN STAFF ANALYSIS

Bill:	SF 2086	House Committee: Passed on 3/18 (15-0)
Committee:	Labor and Workforce	House Floor: Passed on 3/24 (95-0)
Floor Manager:	Representative Rinker	Senate Floor: Passed on 2/24 (47-0)
Date:	March 24, 2026	Governor: Signed on 6/1
Staff:	Kristin Rozeboom (1-3015)	

Junior Fire Fighter Program

- Schools may offer a junior fire fighter program to juniors and seniors.
- Upon completion of the program, the student will be allowed to sit for the Firefighter 1 certification testing.

Section by Section Analysis

Section 1. Section 100B.7(2)—New Paragraph

The administrator of the state fire protection services shall allow a student who has successfully completed the elective junior firefighter program, submitted all necessary certification registration and local verification forms, and paid all applicable registration fees to sit for the firefighter I certification testing.

If a student attains a passing score on all exams necessary for firefighter I prior to becoming 18, the administrator shall not issue the certification until they become of age.

Section 2. Section 256E.7(2)—New paragraph

Applies to charter schools.

Section 3. Section 256F.4(2)—New Section

Applies to charter schools.

Section 4. Section 280.37 Junior firefighter program—New Section

The school board and nonpublic schools may offer juniors and seniors an elective junior firefighter program subject to the requirements below.

Prior to offering a program, the school must enter into an agreement with the local fire department that will be responsible for providing students with appropriate materials and skills training that describes all of the following:

- How students participating will be supervised.
- Activities students will participate in.
- Activities students are prohibited from participating in.
- The schools' responsibilities related to providing medical and liability insurance coverage for all students participating in the program.

The program must be taught by fire service training bureau personnel, or an instructor approved by the bureau, using approved curriculum.

The procedure for background investigations shall apply to training personnel.

If the school offers a program, the board shall coordinate with the local fire department to make sure students are provided with appropriate materials and training to successfully complete all components necessary for firefighter I certification.

The program must satisfy all of the following requirements:

- Prepare students to sit for firefighter I certification
- Allow students to learn about work performed by firefighters and other emergency service providers in a safe and controlled environment.
- Provide students with life skills, including teamwork, leadership, responsibility, and commitment.
- Foster relationships between students and firefighters and other emergency service providers.
- Promote student participation in the fire services and other emergency service providers.

The program must authorize students who are younger than 18 to do all of the following between 6am and 12 midnight:

- Take part in supervised training.
- Fight grass fires, after receiving proper training.
- Perform search and rescue operations, but if below 18, not in a structure that is on fire.
- Enter a fire structure after the fire is out and the incident commander deems it safe.
- Perform traffic control duties after proper training.
- Drive an emergency vehicle with a weight of less than 10,000 pounds in nonemergency mode after proper training.
- Pick up hoses and clean up fire scenes after the area is safe.
- Use pneumatic-driven or power-driven tools during training.
- Operate certain pumps at fire scenes.
- Handle charged hose lines with a diameter of not more than 1 ¾ in.

The program must prohibit students who are younger than 18 from doing any of the following:

- Driving a vehicle in an emergency.
- Perform interior fire suppression in structures, vehicles, or wildland fires.
- Entering a confined space.
- Responding to hazardous material fires, spills, or other events that may expose students to hazardous material exceeding thresholds.
- Performing firefighting overhaul duties.
- Operating a personal vehicle making use of a blue light.
- Performing ice rescue missions.
- Any activity that involves the risk of falling 6 feet or more.
- Using a self-contained breathing device, unless all of the following requirements are met:
 - Student has received proper training
 - Student uses self contained device under supervision.
- Using a cutting torch.
- Filling air bottles, unless all of the following requirements are met
 - Student has received proper training
 - Student fills air bottles under supervision.
- Operating aerial ladders.
- Performing any activity that involves hose lines with a diameter of greater than 2.5 inches, unless the following requirements are met:
 - Student received proper training
 - Student performs activity under supervision.
- A student may perform an activity that involves drafting suction lines with a diameter between 5 and 6 inches.

The program must prohibit all students from doing any of the following:

- Respond to emergencies
- Being dispatched with a fire department
- Performing fire suppression or emergency medical services at an active scene.

The board may offer the program as an extracurricular or as part of the CTE curriculum. To participate, the student must submit a waiver of liability. A student shall not be considered an employee, volunteer, or member of the fire department.

A student's participation shall not create an employee-employer relationship. Any injuries sustained shall not be compensable.

The board shall be responsible for providing medical and liability insurance coverage for all participating students.