

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2023 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-083-2023

Chapter No. 66

Proposed and Presented by The Chair (by request – County Executive)

Introduced by Council Members Hawkins, Watson, Franklin, Fisher, Ivey and Oriadha

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction October 17, 2023

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Training Requirements for Volunteer Firefighters

3 For the purpose of updating the training requirements for volunteer firefighters, volunteer line
4 officers, and volunteer chief officers according to the national standards and to streamline the
5 process of updating the standards to Fire/EMS General Orders.

6 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

7 SUBTITLE 11. FIRE SAFETY.

8 Sections 11-331 through 11-344[334],

9 The Prince George's County Code

10 (2019 Edition; 2022 Supplement).

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
12 Maryland, that Sections 11-331 through 11-344[334] of the Prince George's County Code be and
13 the same are hereby repealed and reenacted with the following amendments:

14 SUBTITLE 11. FIRE SAFETY.

15 **DIVISION 7. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**
16 **AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE [PROVIDERS] CLINICIANS**

17 **Sec. 11-331. Definitions.**

- 18 (a) The words defined in this Section shall have the meanings set forth below whenever
19 they appear in this Division, unless the context in which they are used clearly requires
20 a different meaning or a different definition is prescribed for a particular provision.

- 21 1. **Active experience** means the aggregate cumulation of time in service either as a

1 firefighter or EMS care [Provider] Clinician, as the applicable case may be, including
2 and notwithstanding whether such time in service is or has been in the capacity of a
3 volunteer or of an employee who receives compensation therefore, or whether the same
4 may be cumulated with an organization other than the Fire Department or any
5 designated organization.

6 2. **Active status** means that status by which any member of any designated organization
7 shall constitute and serve in the capacity of a firefighter or EMS care [Provider]
8 Clinician in accordance and within any applicable class provided under this Division.

9 3. **Administrative Only Member** any person who joins the Volunteer Fire/EMS
10 Corporation with the sole purpose of performing non-operational duties or
11 administrative tasks (i.e., recruitment, fundraising, public fire & life safety education,
12 data entry, accounting, etc.).

13 4. **Apparatus** means any motor vehicle which is owned, operated, or maintained by any
14 designated organization and specially equipped for the purpose of responding to fire
15 emergencies, medical emergencies, and other incidents of crisis attended by any
16 designated organization, saving and excepting any such motor vehicle designed for the
17 principal purpose of administrative or other nonemergency support functions as
18 determined by the governing body of the designated organization.

19 5. **Auxiliary Member** – any person who joins the Volunteer Fire/EMS Corporation as a
20 member of the Corporation’s Auxiliary, whether part of the individual volunteer
21 corporation or a separate entity.

22 6. **Continuing education** means a program, certification, or course of study or training,
23 the subject matter of which is deemed and approved as substantially related to
24 firefighting or the provision of emergency medical services, or the operation and
25 enforcement of the provisions of this Subtitle, and includes, by way of illustration and
26 not of limitation, an approved course for Maryland Emergency Medical Technician
27 recertification purposes.

28 7. **County experience** means active experience, only and to the extent such time in service
29 shall be cumulated in connection with the Fire Department or any designated
30 organization.

31 8. **Designated organization** means any volunteer fire, volunteer rescue, or volunteer

- 1 emergency medical service department, squad, or company established and operated in
 2 Prince George's County according to the provisions of Division 6 of this Subtitle.
- 3 9. **Emergency Medical Service (EMS)** means the provision of first aid or application of
 4 other developed medical techniques and treatments, the purpose of which is to save life
 5 and stabilize the medical condition of victims in trauma, medical crisis, or otherwise
 6 exigent medical circumstance.
- 7 10. **Equivalent course of study** means a program, certification, or course of study or
 8 training which is deemed and approved by the Fire Commission as materially equivalent
 9 with respect to any other such program, certification, or course.
- 10 11. **Fire/ EMS General Order** means the policies and procedures of the Prince George's
 11 County Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department.
- 12 12. **[11.] Governing body** means a board or committee of directors or trustees, or other
 13 governing body, having legal or fiduciary or ultimate corporate control with respect to
 14 any designated organization.
- 15 13. **[12.] Interested party** means a governing body or member of any designated
 16 organization, or any applicant to any designated organization, which is the subject of,
 17 interested in, or otherwise aggrieved by any determination made and rendered by the
 18 Qualifications Review Board or any governing body.
- 19 14. **[13.] Junior Member** means a member of a designated organization between the ages
 20 of 16 to 18 years old.
- 21 15. **[14.] Medical emergency apparatus** means any basic life support ambulance or other
 22 apparatus which is designed, specially equipped, and utilized for the purpose of
 23 providing emergency medical services and the transport of victims in trauma, medical
 24 crisis, or otherwise exigent medical circumstance.
- 25 16. **[15.] Primary EMS Care [Provider] Clinician** means the EMS Care [Provider]
 26 Clinician who shall be the most senior and [Provider] Clinician in charge assigned to
 27 any medical emergency apparatus for the purpose of responding to any medical
 28 emergency and providing emergency medical services thereupon.
- 29 17. **[16.] Qualifications Review Board** means the Volunteer Fire Service Qualifications
 30 Review Board established pursuant to the provisions of this Division.
- 31 18. **[17.] Standard** means the National Fire Protection Association or identified industry

1 best practices in firefighting, fire officers, rescue, and emergency medical services.

2 18. **[Standard 1001** means the written firefighting curriculum and course of training
 3 designated as Standard 1001 by the NFPA, as established and set forth in the 1992
 4 edition, and the certificate in respect thereto.]

5 19. **[Standard 1021** means the written firefighting curriculum and course of training
 6 designated as Standard 1021 by the NFPA, as established and set forth in the 1992
 7 edition, and the certificate in respect thereto]

8 **Sec. 11-332. Purposes; Construction; Applicability of Division.**

9 (a) The [underlying] purpose[s and policies] of this Division is [are, among others,] to
 10 prescribe minimum qualifications in policy and procedure for volunteer firefighters and
 11 volunteer EMS care Clinicians [Provider], to establish appropriate standards of training
 12 for volunteer firefighters and volunteer EMS care Clinicians [Provider] and to enhance
 13 the standards and quality of service provided by the Prince George’s County Fire/EMS
 14 Department. [designated organizations].

15 (b) [Unless otherwise indicated, t] The provisions of this Division shall be construed and
 16 applied [liberally] to promote the [underlying purposes and] policies and procedures of
 17 the Prince George’s County Fire/EMS Department. [specifically enumerated herein.]

18 (c) The provisions of this Division shall apply to any designated organization and to any
 19 member who shall actively engage in firefighting, rescue operations, or the provision
 20 of emergency medical services in connection with the Prince George’s County
 21 Fire/EMS Department. [any such designated organization.]

22 **Sec. 11-333. Volunteer Firefighters and EMS Care Clinicians [Provider volunteer] classes.**

23 (a) Subject to the applicable provisions of this Division and for purposes of this Division,
 24 volunteer firefighters shall be designated among classes of seniority as follows:

- 25 (1) Junior Volunteer Firefighter;
- 26 (2) Active Volunteer Firefighter;
- 27 (3) Volunteer Fire Line Officer;
- 28 (4) Deputy or Assistant Volunteer Fire Chief; and
- 29 (5) Volunteer Fire Chief.

30 (b) Subject to the applicable provisions of this Division and for purposes of this Division,
 31 volunteer EMS care [[Provider] Clinician] Clinicians shall be designated among the classes

of seniority as follows:

- (1) Junior EMS Care [Provider] Clinician;
- (2) Active Volunteer EMS Care [Provider] Clinician;
- (3) Volunteer EMS Officer;
- (4) Deputy and Assistant Volunteer EMS Chief; and
- (5) Volunteer EMS Chief.

(c) No member of any designated organization shall be appointed to active status to any officer, deputy chief, assistant chief, or chief class designation provided in this Section until such time as the governing body of such designated organization or the Fire Commission shall have duly issued a certificate, in writing, which evidences that such member meets or exceeds the conditions, qualifications, and requirements applicable thereto according the provisions of this Division.

Sec. 11-334. Junior Volunteer Firefighters and Junior EMS Care [Provider] Clinicians.

(a) Prior to appointment to the capacity of a Junior Volunteer Firefighter or Junior EMS Care [Provider] Clinician, each applicant thereto shall establish compliance with the minimum qualifications as follows:

- (1) **Age.** Such applicant shall have attained an age of not less than sixteen (16) years.
- (2) **Compliance with certain qualifications and training.** Such applicant shall establish full and complete compliance with the provisions for minimum qualifications and training requirements set forth hereunder at Section 11-335, saving and except to the extent such minimum qualifications may otherwise require the attainment of any age.

(b) **Special restrictions.**

- (1) No Junior Volunteer Firefighter or Junior Volunteer EMS Care [Provider] Clinician shall be permitted or authorized to operate any apparatus responding to an emergency alarm.
- (2) No Junior Volunteer Firefighter or Junior Volunteer EMS Care [Provider] Clinician shall be permitted or authorized to ride as a passenger upon any apparatus until such time as they shall have satisfactorily completed the Prince George's County Volunteer Recruit School, or any equivalent course of study, and furnished to the applicable designated organization a valid work permit.
- (3) No Junior Volunteer Firefighter may be permitted or authorized during emergency

1 operations to enter a burning building or other structure until such time as they may
 2 have completed and obtained the Firefighter I certification provided at Section 11-
 3 335(b)(2) hereunder; provided that, notwithstanding the foregoing limitation, an
 4 Incident Commander acting on site at any such fire may direct, authorize, or permit
 5 such Junior Volunteer Firefighter to enter such building or structure in the event such
 6 Incident Commander shall have first determined the subject fire is placed under
 7 control.

8 (4) No Junior Volunteer Firefighter or Junior EMS Care [Provider] Clinician shall be
 9 eligible to serve as a primary EMS care [Provider] Clinician on any medical emergency
 10 apparatus until such time as they shall have obtained a Maryland Emergency Medical
 11 Technician course certification, or any equivalent course of study.

12 (c) Upon attaining the age of not less than eighteen (18) years, any member who shall have
 13 qualified in accordance with the provisions of this Section as a [j]Junior [f]Firefighter or
 14 [j]Junior EMS care [Provider] Clinician shall be duly and automatically qualified thereafter
 15 as an active firefighter or active EMS care [Provider] Clinician, as the applicable case may
 16 be.

17 **Sec. 11-335. Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer EMS Care [Provider] Clinicians.**

18 (a) Except as otherwise provided herein, prior to appointment to the capacity of a volunteer
 19 firefighter or EMS care [Provider] Clinician, whether of the junior or active class
 20 designation, each applicant thereto shall establish compliance with the minimum
 21 qualifications as follows:

22 (1) **Age.** Such applicant shall have attained an age of not less than eighteen (18) years.

23 (2) **Application.** Such applicant shall have furnished a completed application form as
 24 prescribed from time to time by the Fire Commission, which application form shall
 25 require the recordation of such information as is reasonably necessary to demonstrate
 26 that the applicant possesses the qualifications required by this Section.

27 (3) **Medical standards.** Such applicant shall meet or exceed such medical standards as are
 28 established by the Fire Commission, which medical standards shall be based upon
 29 reasonable tests and examinations necessary to ascertain that the applicant's physical
 30 and mental health is adequate to insure that the applicant is able to perform in
 31 firefighting or rescue operations without the threat of injury to self, other firefighters or

1 EMS care [Provider] Clinicians, or members of the general public.

2 (4) **Background investigation.** Such applicant shall have authorized the conduct of, and
 3 successfully completed, a background investigation as may be determined, required,
 4 and administered by the applicable designated organization, which background
 5 investigation may include an investigation of the applicant's character, including an
 6 examination of the applicant's criminal history.

7 (b) Upon appointment to the capacity of junior or active firefighter, each such person appointed
 8 shall comply with each of the several training requirements set forth below; and any failure
 9 thereafter of any person to meet such requirements shall result in automatic termination of
 10 active status until such time as the same requirements shall be satisfied.

11 (1) Not later than twelve (12) months after the assignment of the members Prince George's
 12 County Fire/EMS Department identification number [month of appointment], each
 13 junior or active firefighter shall either enroll in the Maryland Emergency Medical
 14 Technician course or in the Firefighter I certification course [conducted in accordance
 15 with Standard 1001], or any equivalent course of study.

16 (2) Not later than thirty-six (36[0]) months after the month of appointment, each junior or
 17 active firefighter shall have satisfactorily completed the Maryland Emergency Medical
 18 Technician course and obtained the Firefighter I [certification in accordance with
 19 Standard 1001], or any equivalent course of study.

20 (3) For purposes of this Section 11-335(b), in the case of any volunteer firefighter who
 21 may attain the active class designation by operation of the conversion from the junior
 22 class in accordance with the provisions of Section 11-334(c), the month of appointment
 23 shall be determined and deemed to be the month during which they were first
 24 appointed to such junior class designation.

25 (c) Upon appointment to the capacity of Active Volunteer EMS Care [Provider] Clinician, each
 26 such person appointed shall comply with each of the several training requirements set forth
 27 below; and any failure thereafter of any person to meet such requirements shall result in
 28 automatic termination of active status until such time as the same requirements shall be
 29 satisfied.

30 (1) Not later than eighteen (18) months after the month of appointment, each Active
 31 Volunteer EMS Care [Provider] Clinician shall have completed and obtained a

1 Maryland Emergency Medical Technician [course] certification.[, or any equivalent
2 course of study].

- 3 (2) For purposes of this Section 11-335(c), in the case of any Volunteer EMS Care
4 [Provider] Clinician who may attain the active class designation by operation of the
5 conversion from the junior class in accordance with the provisions of Section 11-
6 334(c), the month of appointment shall be determined and deemed to be the month
7 during which they were first appointed to such junior class designation.

8 (d) **Restrictions.**

- 9 (1) No Active Volunteer Firefighter or Active Volunteer EMS Care [Provider] Clinician
10 shall be eligible to operate, or ride as a passenger upon, any apparatus until such time
11 as they shall have satisfactorily completed the Prince George's County Volunteer
12 Recruit School.[, or any equivalent course of study].
- 13 (2) No Active Volunteer Firefighter may be permitted or authorized during emergency
14 operations to enter a burning building or other structure until such time as they may
15 have completed and obtained the Firefighter I certification provided at Section 11-
16 335(b)(2) hereinabove; provided that, notwithstanding the foregoing limitation, an
17 Incident Commander acting on-site at any such fire may direct, authorize, or permit
18 such Active Volunteer Firefighter to enter such building or structure in the event such
19 Incident Commander shall have first determined the subject fire is placed under
20 control.
- 21 (3) No Active Volunteer Firefighter or Active EMS Care [Provider] Clinician shall be
22 eligible to serve as a primary EMS care [Provider] Clinician on any medical emergency
23 apparatus until such time as they shall have obtained a Maryland Emergency Medical
24 Technician course certification.[, or any equivalent course of study.]

25 **Sec. 11-336. [Volunteer Fire Line Officers.] Reserved. Volunteer Training Requirements**
26 **Standards.**

27 The Volunteer Training Requirements for Volunteer Firefighters, Volunteer Line Officers,
28 Volunteer Chief Officers, Volunteer Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Care Clinician,
29 Volunteer Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Care Clinician Line Officers, Volunteer
30 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Care Clinician Chief Officers. All certification
31 requirements shall be consistent with National Fire Protection Association standards, eligibility

1 and professional development requirement shall be consistent with Career and Volunteer
 2 Professional Development guide, and are listed in the Prince George’s County Fire and
 3 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department General Order 11-20 (Volunteer Training
 4 Standards). Any revision to General Order 11-20 (Volunteer Training Standards) or any
 5 successor shall be consistent with National Fire Protection Association standards or shall be
 6 approved by the County Council via Resolution.

7 [(a) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Volunteer Fire Line Officer, each
 8 eligible member of any designated organization shall establish compliance with the minimum
 9 qualifications as follows:

- 10 (1) **Age.** Such member shall have attained an age not less than the number of years
 11 determined according to the following schedule:

RANK	YEARS OF AGE
Sergeant	19
Lieutenant	20
Captain	21

- 12 (2) **Experience.** Such member shall have cumulated a minimum number of years active
 13 experience in the capacity of a firefighter, such minimum number of years determined
 14 according to the following schedule:

RANK	YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
Sergeant	2
Lieutenant	3
Captain	3

- 15 (3) **Certification.** Such member shall have obtained a Department of Transportation First
 16 Responder course certification, or any equivalent course of study.

17 (b) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Volunteer Fire Line Officer at the
 18 rank of Sergeant or Lieutenant, each candidate therefor shall have satisfactorily completed
 19 and obtained the Firefighter II certification in accordance with Standard 1001, or any
 20 equivalent course of study.

21 (c) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Volunteer Fire Line Officer at the

1 rank of Captain, each candidate therefor shall have satisfactorily completed and obtained
 2 the Fire Officer I certification in accordance with Standard 1021, or any equivalent course
 3 of study.]

4 **Sec. 11-337. [Deputy and Assistant Volunteer Fire Chiefs.] Reserved.**

5 [(a) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Deputy or Assistant Volunteer
 6 Fire Chief, each eligible member of any designated organization shall establish compliance with
 7 the minimum qualifications as follows:

8 (1) Age. Such member shall have attained an age not less than twenty-three (23) years.

9 (2) Experience. Such member shall have cumulated not less than four (4) years County
 10 experience in the capacity of a firefighter; provided, not less than two (2) years of such
 11 County experience shall be cumulated in the capacity of a fire line officer, and not less
 12 than one (1) year of such County experience shall be cumulated at the rank of Captain.

13 (3) Certification. Such member shall have obtained a Department of Transportation First
 14 Responder course certification, or any equivalent course of study.

15 (4) Such member shall have satisfactorily completed and obtained the Fire Officer II
 16 certification in accordance with Standard 1021, or any equivalent course of study.

17 (c) Not less than twelve (12) months prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a
 18 Deputy or Assistant Volunteer Fire Chief at the interim rank of "A Chief" shall first
 19 complete one or more programs of continuing education which, in the aggregate, shall
 20 require a duration of instruction of not less than twelve (12) hours; and, in addition, on an
 21 annual basis commencing upon appointment to the capacity of Deputy or Assistant Fire
 22 Chief, whether at the interim rank of "A Chief" or "B Chief," each such person appointed
 23 shall complete one or more programs of continuing education which, in the aggregate, shall
 24 require a duration of instruction of not less than twelve (12) hours.]

25 **Sec. 11-338. [Volunteer Fire Chiefs.] Reserved.**

26 [(a) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of Volunteer Fire Chief, each eligible
 27 member of any designated organization shall establish compliance with the minimum
 28 qualifications as follows:

29 (1) Age. Such member shall have attained an age not less than twenty-four (24) years.

30 (2) Experience. Such member shall have cumulated not less than five (5) years County
 31 experience in the capacity of a firefighter; provided, not less than three (3) years of

such County experience shall be cumulated in the capacity of a fire line officer or deputy or assistant chief, and not less than one (1) year of such County experience shall be cumulated in the capacity of a deputy or assistant chief.

(3) Certification. Such member shall have obtained a Department of Transportation First] [Responder course certification, or any equivalent course of study.

(4) Such member shall have satisfactorily completed and obtained the Fire Officer II certification in accordance with Standard 1021, or any equivalent course of study.

(5) Continuing education. Not less than twelve (12) months prior to the month of appointment, such member shall have completed one or more programs of continuing education which, in the aggregate, shall require a duration of instruction of not less than twelve (12) hours.

(c) On an annual basis commencing upon appointment to the capacity of fire chief, each such person appointed shall complete one or more programs of continuing education which, in the aggregate, shall require a duration of instruction of not less than twelve (12) hours.

Editor's note(s)—CR-96-1974 provided that any officer in a volunteer fire department who completes the Manager and Supervisor Program offered by the Prince George's Community College shall be reimbursed for the cost of the course.]

Sec. 11-339. [Volunteer EMS Officers.] Reserved.

[(a) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Volunteer EMS Officer, each eligible member of any designated organization shall establish compliance with the minimum qualifications as follows:

(1) **Age.** Such member shall have attained an age not less than the number of years determined according to the following schedule:

RANK	YEARS OF AGE
Sergeant	19
Lieutenant	20
Captain	21

(2) **Experience.** Such member shall have cumulated a minimum number of years active experience in the capacity of an EMS care Provider, such minimum number of years determined according to the following schedule:

RANK	YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
Sergeant	2
Lieutenant	3
Captain	3

- 1 (b) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Volunteer EMS Officer, each
2 candidate therefore shall have satisfactorily completed the Prince George's County
3 Volunteer Recruit School, or any equivalent course of study.
- 4 (c) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Volunteer EMS Officer at the
5 rank of Captain, each candidate therefor shall have satisfactorily completed the Fire Officer
6 I certification in accordance with Standard 1021, or the EMS Officer I training course, or
7 any equivalent course of study relating directly to the duties and operation of EMS officers.
- 8 (d) **Certification.** Prior to and during any appointment to the capacity of a Volunteer EMS
9 Officer, each officer so appointed shall maintain in current and good standing the Maryland
10 Emergency Medical Technician certification, or equivalent course of study.]

11 **Sec. 11-340. [Deputy and Assistant Volunteer EMS Chiefs.]Reserved.**

- 12 [(a) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Deputy or Assistant Volunteer
13 EMS Chief, each eligible member of any designated organization shall establish
14 compliance with the minimum qualifications as follows:
15 (1) **Age.** Such member shall have attained an age not less than twenty-three (23) years.
16 (2) **Experience.** Such member shall have cumulated not less than four (4) years County
17 experience in the capacity of an EMS care [Provider] Clinician; provided, not less than
18 two (2) years of such County experience shall be cumulated in the capacity of an EMS
19 officer, and not less than one (1) year of such County experience shall be cumulated at
20 the rank of Captain.
- 21 (b) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of Deputy or Assistant Volunteer
22 EMS Chief, each candidate shall have satisfactorily completed the Prince George's County
23 Volunteer Recruit School, or any equivalent course of study.
- 24 (c) **Training.** Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of Deputy or Assistant
25 Volunteer EMS Chief, each candidate therefor shall have satisfactorily completed and
26 obtained the Fire Officer II certification in accordance with Standard 1021, the EMS

1 Officer II training course, or any equivalent course of study relating to the duties of EMS
2 officers.

- 3 (d) **Certification.** Prior to and during any appointment to the capacity of Deputy or Assistant
4 Volunteer EMS Chief, each deputy or assistant chief so appointed shall maintain in]
5 [current and good standing the Maryland Emergency Medical Technician certification, or
6 equivalent course of study.
- 7 (e) Not less than twelve (12) months prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a
8 Deputy or Assistant Volunteer EMS Chief at the interim rank of "A Chief" shall first
9 complete one or more programs of continuing education which, in the aggregate, shall
10 require a duration of instruction of not less than twelve (12) hours; and, in addition, on an
11 annual basis commencing upon appointment to the capacity of volunteer deputy or assistant
12 EMS chief, whether at the interim rank of "A Chief" or "B Chief," each such person
13 appointed shall complete one or more programs of continuing education which, in the
14 aggregate, shall require a duration of instruction of not less than twelve (12) hours.]

15 **Sec. 11-341. [Volunteer EMS Chiefs.]Reserved.**

16 [(a) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of a Volunteer EMS Chief, each
17 eligible member of any designated organization shall establish compliance with the minimum
18 qualifications as follows:

- 19 (1) **Age.** Such member shall have attained an age not less than twenty-four (24) years.
- 20 (2) **Experience.** Such member shall have cumulated not less than five (5) years County
21 experience in the capacity of an EMS care [Provider] Clinician; provided, not less than
22 three (3) years of such County experience shall be cumulated in the capacity of an
23 EMS officer, and not less than one (1) year of such County experience shall be
24 cumulated in the capacity of a deputy or assistant EMS chief.
- 25 (3) **Continuing education.** Not less than twelve (12) months prior to the month of
26 appointment, such member shall have completed one or more programs of continuing
27 education which, in the aggregate, shall require a duration of instruction of not less
28 than twelve (12) hours.
- 29 (b) Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of Volunteer EMS Chief, each
30 candidate shall have satisfactorily completed the Prince George's County Volunteer Recruit
31 School, or any equivalent course of study.

- 1 (c) **Training.** Prior to any promotional appointment to the capacity of Volunteer EMS Chief,
 2 each candidate therefor shall have satisfactorily completed the Fire Officer II certification
 3 in accordance with Standard 1021, the EMS Officer II training course, or any equivalent
 4 course of study relating to the duties of EMS officers.]
- 5 (d) **Certification.** Prior to and during any appointment to the capacity of Volunteer EMS
 6 Chief, each chief so appointed shall maintain in current and good standing the Maryland
 7 Emergency Medical Technician certification, or equivalent course of study.
- 8 (e) On an annual basis commencing upon appointment to the capacity of Volunteer EMS
 9 Chief, each such person appointed shall complete one or more programs of continuing
 10 education which, in the aggregate, shall require a duration of instruction of not less than
 11 twelve (12) hours.]

12 **Sec. 11-342. Administration of Division.**

- 13 (a) **Disputes.** Subject to the provision for recommendation by the Qualification Review Board
 14 and any governing body which is an interested party, any dispute concerning the purposes,
 15 provisions, and administration of this Division shall be subject to determination by the Fire
 16 Commission.
- 17 (b) **Determinations by Fire Commission.** The Fire Commission shall have the specific
 18 authorities and responsibilities to render the following determinations provided in
 19 accordance with this Division:
- 20 (1) Any dispute concerning the issuance or failure to issue any certificate provided in
 21 accordance with the purposes, provisions, and administration of Section 11-333(c);
- 22 (2) Any determination concerning the qualification of any program, certification, or course
 23 as one which shall be deemed an equivalent course of study with respect to any other
 24 course enumerated herein, within the meaning of Section 11-331(a)(10) and purposes
 25 of this Division; and
- 26 (3) Any request of appeal tendered by an interested party with respect to any prior adverse
 27 determination provided in accordance with this Division and rendered by the
 28 Qualifications Review Board or any governing body.
- 29 (c) **Determinations by a governing body.** A governing body shall have the specific
 30 authorities and responsibilities to render the following determinations provided in
 31 accordance with this Division:

- 1 (1) Any initial determination concerning the qualifications or compliance with applicable
- 2 training requirements of any firefighter or EMS care [Provider] Clinician in active
- 3 status, or any applicant for such active status;
- 4 (2) Any certification provided in accordance with the purposes, provisions, and
- 5 administration of Section 11-333(c); and
- 6 (3) Any determination concerning the qualification of any program, certification, or course
- 7 as one which shall be deemed substantially related to firefighting or the provision of
- 8 emergency medical services, or the operations and enforcement of the provisions of
- 9 this Subtitle, and shall constitute continuing education within the meaning set forth in
- 10 Section 11-331(a)(6) and for purposes of this Division.

11 (d) **Determinations by Qualifications Review Board.** The Qualifications Review Board shall
 12 have the specific authorities and responsibilities as follows:

- 13 (1) To evaluate and make recommendation with respect to any dispute made subject to
- 14 determination by the Fire Commission pursuant to the provisions of this Division,
- 15 including, without limitation, any dispute concerning the issuance or failure to issue
- 16 any certificate provided in accordance with the purposes, provisions, and
- 17 administration of Section 11-333(c);
- 18 (2) To evaluate and develop recommendations concerning qualification of any program,
- 19 certification, or course as one which shall be deemed substantially related to
- 20 firefighting or the provision of emergency medical services, or the operations and
- 21 enforcement of the provisions of this Subtitle, and shall constitute continuing education
- 22 within the meaning set forth in Section 11-331(a)(10) and for purposes of this Division;
- 23 (3) To make such general studies, surveys, inquiries, and evaluations concerning the
- 24 improvement of qualifications or training for active status; and
- 25 (4) To report its recommendations, findings, and evaluations to the Fire Commission.

26 (e) **Form and standards of determinations.** Any determination made pursuant to the
 27 provisions of this Division by the Fire Commission, a governing body, or the Qualifications
 28 Review Board shall be rendered in writing, and shall be certificated through attestation by
 29 any officer so authorized by the governing body in interest, and shall be made upon the
 30 basis of a preponderance of the evidence.

31 (f) **Procedures; regulations.** The Fire Commission shall promulgate its own rules and

1 regulations as may be necessary and appropriate to execute its responsibilities under this
 2 Division; provided, such rules or regulations shall provide, among other things, that any
 3 appeal as provided under this Division shall be duly taken only upon the giving of timely
 4 notice thereof to the Qualifications Review Board and, further, shall provide that the
 5 Qualifications Review Board shall be afforded a period of not less than thirty (30), and not
 6 more than sixty (60) days, from the date of notice for the purpose of evaluating such appeal
 7 and making such recommendations as provided herein.

8 **Sec. 11-343. Volunteer Fire Service Qualifications Review Board.**

- 9 (a) There is hereby established a Volunteer Fire Service Qualifications Review Board which
 10 shall monitor the development of appropriate qualifications and standards of training for
 11 volunteer firefighters and volunteer EMS care [Provider] Clinicians, and to support the
 12 enhancement of standards and qualifications of service provided by designated
 13 organizations.
- 14 (b) The Qualifications Review Board shall consist of five (5) members who shall be designated
 15 in accordance with the following:
- 16 (1) One (1) member shall be designated from, among, and by the Fire Commission, which
 17 member shall constitute and serve as Chairman of the Qualifications Review Board;
 - 18 (2) Two (2) members shall be designated by the Fire Chief from and among the members
 19 of the Prince George's County Fire Service, one of which members shall be sworn to
 20 the rank of [Major] Assistant Fire Chief and the other of which shall be [sworn and]
 21 appointed to the position of Volunteer [Division Chief] Assistant Fire Chief;
 - 22 (3) One (1) member shall be designated from among the members of the Prince George's
 23 County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, Inc., a Maryland nonstock corporation,
 24 or its lawful successor, which is organized and existing in Prince George's County,
 25 Maryland, and which member shall be so designated by the President of such
 26 association; and
 - 27 (4) One (1) member shall be designated from, by, and among the members of the
 28 Volunteer Fire Chief's Council or its lawful successor, an unincorporated and nonprofit
 29 professional association organized and existing in Prince George's County, Maryland.
- 30 (c) Each member of the Qualifications Review Board shall serve for an indefinite term, and
 31 subject to the pleasure of the person or association by which such member is so designated

1 to serve.

2 (d) The Qualifications Review Board shall promulgate its own rules and regulations as may be
3 necessary and appropriate to execute its responsibilities under this Division.

4 **Sec. 11-344. Reserved.**

5 * * * * *

6 SECTION 11-331 through 11-344. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of
7 this Act are hereby declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection,
8 paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or
9 unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall
10 not affect the remaining words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs,
11 subsections, or sections of this Act, since the same would have been enacted without the
12 incorporation in this Act of any such invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence,
13 paragraph, subparagraph, subsection, or section.

14 SECTION 11-331 through 11-344. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take
15 effect on forty-five (45) calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this 14th day of November, 2023.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Thomas E. Dernoga
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____

BY: _____
Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

KEY:

Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.

[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.

Asterisks *** indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.

* * * * *