

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Pam Watkins, Ohio Department of Public Safety

**FROM:** Paula Steele, Regulatory Policy Advocate

**DATE:** September 3, 2013

**RE:** **CSI Review – Chartering of Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector Training Program** (OAC 4765-11-01 through OAC 4765-11-21)

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On behalf of Lt. Governor Mary Taylor, and pursuant to the authority granted to the Common Sense Initiative (CSI) Office under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) section 107.54, the CSI Office has reviewed the abovementioned administrative rule package and associated Business Impact Analysis (BIA). This memo represents the CSI Office's comments to the Agency as provided for in ORC 107.54.

**Analysis**

The Ohio Department of Public Safety's rule package consists of twenty proposed rules – sixteen are existing rules being reviewed under the five-year review requirement of ORC 119.032, and four are new rules. The proposed rules address the standards for issuance of a fire charter and the curriculum requirements for the training and instruction of fire fighters, fire safety inspectors, and instructors. The draft rules were filed with the CSI Office on June 13, 2013 with a public comment period ending on June 27, 2013. During that period, no public comments were submitted.

According to the BIA, the draft rules were developed through a comprehensive early stakeholder outreach process. Stakeholders provided several suggestions which were considered and are enumerated in the BIA. The proposed rules addressing course hours and content requirements are based on the National Fire Protection Association standards. The proposed new rules permit online courses and address requirements to ensure the integrity of the state testing process.

The overall impact of the proposed rules results from an additional twenty hours of required new skill set instruction for firefighter I and firefighter II curricula. The BIA estimates the increased

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cost in tuition fees to range from \$150 to \$500 per student. Accordingly, the Department justifies the increased costs because the additional instruction is expected to reduce firefighter injuries and deaths, improve emergency response, and contribute to safer communities.

After reviewing the proposed rules and the BIA, the CSI Office determined that the rules satisfactorily meet the standards espoused by the CSI Office, and the purpose of the rules justifies the adverse impact identified in the BIA.

### **Recommendations**

For the reasons discussed above, the CSI Office does not have any recommendations for this rule package.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the above comments, the CSI Office concludes that the Ohio Department of Public Safety should proceed with the formal filing of this rule package with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review.

cc: Mark Hamlin, Director of Regulatory Policy