



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

**Legislative Council Study Committee on Volunteer Firefighter and Emergency
Medical Technician Shortages**

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STUDY ASSIGNMENT: The Study Committee is directed to examine issues related to the shortage of volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) in the state, particularly in rural areas, and propose measures to address the shortage. Specifically, the Study Committee shall study all of the following: (a) the magnitude of volunteer shortages, the areas of the state most affected, and the potential impact of shortages on public health and safety and economic development; (b) whether current training and continuing education requirements contribute to the shortage; (c) relationships between full-time and volunteer emergency response departments and the impact that the shortage of volunteers has on nonvolunteer departments in neighboring communities; and (d) whether the creation of organizations, particularly in rural areas, may help address the shortage. The committee shall develop legislative options to meet the needs of full time and volunteer fire departments, including proposals designed to increase the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters throughout the state.

15 MEMBERS: 2 Representatives; 2 Senators; and 11 Public Members.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL STAFF: Margit Kelley, Senior Staff Attorney; Andrea Brauer, Staff Attorney; and Julie Learned, Support Staff.