Report From Agency

Report for the Legislature
Service Award Board Proposed Rule relating
to the Service Award Program
VFF-EMT 1

The Proposed Rule:

The proposed rule including the analysis is attached.

Reference to applicable forms:

No new or revised forms are required by these rules.

Fiscal Estimate:

This rule has no significant fiscal effect on the private sector. The full fiscal estimate is included with the proposed rule.

Statement Explaining Need:

The proposed rule amendments reflect statutory changes to the Service Award Program as required by 2005 Act 142. The program assists qualified departments recruit and retain volunteer fire fighters, first responders and emergency medical technicians. The Department's authority for amending the rule is found in ss.16.004(1) and 227.11, Stats.

Proposed revisions to VFF-EMT 1 make various changes governing the program. They include renaming the program and board from the Volunteer Fire Fighter and Emergency Medical Technician Service Award to Service Award, expanding eligible participants to include first responders and counties, eliminating the five year requirement to buy back years of service, the volunteer must also meet other program requirements established by the municipality and includes a provision that the beneficiary of a volunteer who is killed while actively engaged in the rendering of volunteer fire fighting, first responder or emergency medical technician be paid the service lump sum.

Public Hearing and Comment Summary:

In the May 1, 2008 issue of the Wisconsin Administrative Register, notice was given that a public hearing would be held on the rulemaking order proposed by the Department. Copies of the proposed rules have been provided to interested parties. In addition, copies of the hearing notice were hand-delivered to the press boxes located in Room 235 Southwest in the State Capitol Building on May 1, 2008. The Department held a public hearing on the proposed rule on Monday, May 19, 2008, in Madison. The Department also accepted written comments until May 28, 2008.

Enclosed please find copies of the hearing transcript and the registration slip of the person who appeared at the public hearing.

Response to Legislative Council Staff Recommendations:

The Legislative Council staff clearinghouse report is also included. The final enclosure is a summary of the public comments received and the Department's response. The document explains whether the recommendation was related to the rule or the implementation of the rule, along with the Department's response.

Final Regulatory Flexibility Analysis:

A final regulatory flexibility analysis is not required because the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small businesses, as defined in s.227.114(1), Stats.