

CS for SB 1297

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**THE STATE SENATE**  
**Wednesday, February 15, 2006**

**Committee Substitute for**  
**Senate Bill No. 1297**

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 1297 - By: SHURDEN of the Senate and MILLER (Ray) of the House.

An Act relating to cities and towns; granting volunteer firefighters leave with pay in certain circumstances; providing for rate of pay; prohibiting adverse action in certain circumstances; providing penalties; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 29-305 of Title 11, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Any person who is a volunteer firefighter or a volunteer firefighter of a combination fire department, as defined in Sections 29-202 and 29-301 of Title 11 of the Oklahoma Statutes, shall be granted a leave with pay from his or her place of employment to participate in delivery of fire protection services in any county, counties or area within a county where, because of emergency drought conditions, there has been a gubernatorially proclaimed extraordinary danger from fire as provided in Section 16-26 of Title 2 of the Oklahoma Statutes. When the Governor has, by proclamation, declared a drought emergency to exist and has described the general boundaries of the area affected, volunteer fighters participating in

1 delivery of fire protection services in the described area during  
2 the emergency shall receive their regular rate of pay for the  
3 regular work hours in which the employee is absent from work. No  
4 employer may take an adverse employment action against an employee  
5 who is a volunteer firefighter providing fire services during such  
6 emergencies.

7 B. Any person who violates this section is guilty of a  
8 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than Five Hundred  
9 Dollars (\$500.00), by imprisonment for not more than one (1) year,  
10 or both.

11 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
12 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby  
13 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
14 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

15 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS AND LABOR, dated 2-13-06  
16 - DO PASS, As Amended.