



WISCONSIN SOCIETY OF EMERGENCY SERVICES INSTRUCTORS, INC.
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April 18, 2023

To All Our Members, Colleagues, and Associates in the Emergency Services, Greetings:

On March 8, 2023, Wisconsin 2023 Senate Bill 118, which seeks to amend the content of fire service training throughout the state, was introduced. Although this bill died in committee, the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Society of Emergency Services Instructors (WSESI) has adopted the following Statement of Position regarding it:

The Wisconsin Society of Emergency Services Instructors opposes the passage of 2023 Senate Bill 118, for the following reasons:

- Wisconsin's Fire Service Training curricula are developed according to national consensus standards, in which job performance requirements (JPRs) are carefully defined, and do not distinguish between career, paid-on-call, and/or volunteer responders.
- Those few JPRs which address issues historically faced by career firefighters or officers comprise a small portion of the curriculum in the scope of the Bill, and thus does not create sufficient disparity to warrant a legislative remedy.
- The Bill seeks to require that "Programs directed towards fire fighter officers shall differentiate based on whether the training is for volunteer fire fighting officers or paid, full-time fire fighting officers." The extensive curriculum in use does not differentiate between these types of organizations because the fire or emergency incident does not differentiate who is responding to mitigate it.
- Interoperability measures between responder agencies, such as the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), are possible in large part due to the uniformity in training received by those agencies through a statewide curriculum.
- The Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), through its Fire Service Education Office (FSEO) and its Fire Service Advisory Committee, has worked for decades to develop and maintain its curricula to make it complete, relevant, current, and respected in the fire service at large through its accreditation. This bill would set a dangerous precedent by mandating substantial revisions that can potentially dilute, weaken, or render obsolete its content, with no regard for the existing standards within the discipline.

WSESI, as a member organization of the Wisconsin Fire & EMS Coalition (WFEC), will continue to pursue advocacy of legislative issues primarily through WFEC meetings and activities. The WSESI Board of Directors encourages member organizations to rely upon consultation with WFEC in developing legislative answers to their challenges.

Sincerely Yours,

James Austad
President

Kevin Gerarden
Exec. Secretary