



Information Bulletin

CIVIL SERVICE LAW AMENDED TO REQUIRE MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR CAREER FIRE CHIEFS

Chapter 406 of the Laws of 2018 amends Civil Service Law §58-a to require minimum qualifications for fire chiefs of fire departments that employ five or more career firefighters. These new requirements apply to the provisional or permanent appointment of a paid fire chief, on or after January 20, 2019, in the competitive, non-competitive, unclassified, exempt or other classifications as defined by the New York State Civil Service Law.

Volunteer fire chiefs in volunteer or combination departments are not subject to the Civil Service Law. Therefore, these requirements do not apply to volunteer fire chiefs in volunteer or combination departments.

Effective 1/20/19, except in the City of New York, to be eligible for provisional or permanent appointment as a fire chief, the candidate must meet the following qualifications:

- 1.** Possess National Certification as a Fire Officer 3, pursuant to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1021 Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications;
- 2.** Maintain fitness standards in compliance with OSHA 29 CFR 1910.134 Respiratory Protection Standard, 29 CFR 1910.156 Fire Brigade Standard and any established by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ); and,
- 3.** Meet the minimum qualifications established by the municipal civil service agency having jurisdiction.
- 4.** The following education and experience may be substituted for NFPA 1021 Fire Officer 3 Certification, upon the approval of the State Fire Administrator:
 - (a)** NYS Supervisory Level I certification pursuant to 19 NYCRR 426.9 (i.e. NYS Fire Officer I certification) and 10 or more years of service as fire chief in a civil service position; or
 - (b)** Possess National Certification as a Fire Officer 2, pursuant to NFPA 1021; and
 - i.** 10 or more years of progressive supervisory responsibility in the field of fire or emergency services and 60 college credits; or
 - ii.** 5 or more years of progressive supervisory responsibility in the field of fire or emergency services and 120 college credits; or
 - iii.** 5 or more years of service as fire chief, in a civil service position; or
 - iv.** 5 or more years of service as a chief officer (Assistant Chief, Battalion Chief, Deputy Chief) in a civil service position and completion of the National Fire Academy, Executive Fire Officer Program or the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Chief Fire Officer designation.