

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 9.1-301 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the Firefighters and*
3 *Emergency Medical Technicians Procedural Guarantee Act; conduct of interrogations.*

4 [S 68]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 9.1-301 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 9.1-301. Conduct of interrogation.

9 The provisions of this section shall apply whenever a firefighter or emergency medical technician is
10 subjected to an interrogation which could lead to dismissal, demotion or suspension for punitive reasons:11 1. The interrogation shall take place at the facility where the investigating officer is assigned, or at
12 the facility which has jurisdiction over the place where the incident under investigation allegedly
13 occurred, as designated by the investigating officer.14 2. No firefighter or emergency medical technician shall be subjected to interrogation without first
15 receiving written notice of sufficient detail of the investigation in order to reasonably apprise the
16 firefighter or emergency medical technician of the nature of the investigation.17 3. All interrogations shall be conducted at a reasonable time of day, preferably when the firefighter
18 or emergency medical technician is on duty, unless the matters being investigated are of such a nature
19 that immediate action is required.20 4. The firefighter or emergency medical technician under investigation shall be informed of the
21 name, rank, and unit or command of the officer in charge of the investigation, the interrogators, and all
22 persons present during any interrogation.23 5. Interrogation sessions shall be of reasonable duration and the firefighter or emergency medical
24 technician shall be permitted reasonable periods for rest and personal necessities. *The firefighter or*
25 *emergency medical technician may have a witness of his choice present during the interrogation, as*
26 *long as the interview is not unduly delayed. This person shall serve as an observer only, and may not*
27 *participate or represent the employee, and must be a current member of the Department, for purposes of*
28 *confidentiality. The witness may not be involved in the investigation.*29 6. The firefighter or emergency medical technician being interrogated shall not be subjected to
30 offensive language or offered any incentive as an inducement to answer any questions.31 7. If a recording of any interrogation is made, and if a transcript of the interrogation is made, the
32 firefighter or emergency medical technician under investigation shall be entitled to a copy without
33 charge. Such record may be electronically recorded.34 8. No firefighter or emergency medical technician shall be discharged, disciplined, demoted, denied
35 promotion or seniority, or otherwise disciplined or discriminated against in regard to his employment, or
36 be threatened with any such treatment as retaliation for his exercise of any of the rights granted or
37 protected by this chapter.38 *Nothing contained in this section shall prohibit a local governing body from granting its employees*
39 *rights greater than those contained herein.*

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