Sponsored by:
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SYNOPSIS
Permits municipalities to enact ordinances requiring owners of certain multiple dwellings to have emergency evacuation plans.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.
AN ACT concerning certain multiple dwellings and supplementing
P.L.1986, c.142 (C.52:27D-222 et seq.).

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
of New Jersey:

1. A municipal governing body, by ordinance, may require an
owner of a multiple dwelling, as defined under section 3 of P.L.1967,
c.76 (C.55:13A-3), which is comprised of more than 20 dwelling units
and reserves occupancy for residents who have attained the minimum
age of 55 to prepare and maintain an emergency building evacuation
plan for the multiple dwelling, in coordination with the appropriate
local fire and emergency response agencies.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill would allow municipalities by ordinance to require owners
of multiple dwellings comprised of more than 20 dwelling units and
which reserve occupancy for residents who have attained the minimum
age of 55, to prepare and maintain an emergency building evacuation
plan for the multiple dwelling. The plan would be prepared in
coordination with local fire and emergency response agencies.

Currently the law requires that only assisted living facilities, nursing
homes and other types of licensed care facilities have emergency
evacuation plans. Many senior citizens who are able to live
independently and outside of assisted living facilities or nursing homes
utilize independent living facilities for their residences. Under the law,
these residences, which are characterized as multiple dwellings, fall
outside of the requirements imposed on nursing homes and assisted
living facilities. Although the individuals residing in independent living
facilities are still ambulatory, many are nonetheless frail and become
confused in times of chaos or crisis. The bill will allow those
municipalities that desire to require evacuation plans for their seniors
living in multiple dwellings in order to minimize the stress and
confusion on the elderly residents in times of evacuation to do so.