

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 501

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 4, 2010

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 501.

This bill expands the authority of emergency management departments in requesting assistance outside their normal territorial jurisdictions. Under the bill's provisions, any municipal emergency management coordinator is authorized to request assistance from the chief executive officer or his or her designee of any volunteer first aid, ambulance, or rescue squad; chief or other head of the fire department and force or fire company; or chief or other head of the police department and force located in and serving another municipality.

The bill also provides emergency management personnel with the same statutory protections afforded to members of police forces, fire departments and forces, and volunteer fire companies in the event of injury or death while rendering assistance outside of their normal operating jurisdiction. If an individual were to suffer any injury or death, the individual or the individual's designee or legal representative would be entitled to the salary, pension rights, workers' compensation or other benefits as would be available if the injury or death occurred in the territorial jurisdiction in which the individual normally performed his or her duties.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2010-2011 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.