

# ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 47

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2016 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JOHN S. WISNIEWSKI**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman CRAIG J. COUGHLIN**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes task force to study and make recommendations concerning stabilization and growth of volunteer first responder community.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1    **A JOINT RESOLUTION** establishing a task force to study and make  
2       recommendations concerning the stabilization and growth of  
3       volunteer first responders.  
4

5       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
6       *State of New Jersey:*  
7

8       1.   a.   There is hereby created a task force to be known as the  
9       “Special Task Force on Volunteer Retention and Recruitment.” The  
10      task force shall study and make recommendations for short-term  
11      and long-term strategies, incentives, and policies for the retention  
12      and recruitment of volunteer first responders to ensure the State’s  
13      volunteer first responder ranks stabilize and grow in order to be  
14      able to adequately service the communities in this State.  
15      Specifically, the task force’s charge shall include, but not be limited  
16      to, the evaluation of incentives, training and recertification  
17      requirements, and the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP)  
18      for volunteer first responders.

19      b.   The task force shall consist of 15 members as follows:

20       (1) the Commissioner of Health or a designee, who shall serve  
21      ex-officio;

22       (2) the Director of the Office of Emergency Medical Services in  
23      the Department of Health or a designee, who shall serve ex-officio;

24       (3) the Director of the Division of Fire Safety in the Department  
25      of Community Affairs or a designee, who shall serve ex-officio;

26       (4) a representative of the New Jersey State First Aid Council,  
27      appointed by the President of the Senate;

28       (5) a representative of the New Jersey State Firemen’s  
29      Association who is a member of an all volunteer fire company,  
30      appointed by the President of the Senate;

31       (6) a representative of the New Jersey State League of  
32      Municipalities, appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly;

33       (7) a representative of the New Jersey Association of Counties,  
34      appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly;

35       (8) two public members who are volunteer first responders,  
36      appointed by the President of the Senate;

37       (9) a public member who is a member of an all volunteer  
38      ambulance, first aid and rescue squad, appointed by the Speaker of  
39      the General Assembly;

40       (10) a public member who is a member of an all volunteer fire  
41      company, appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly;

42       (11) two members of the Senate, who shall not be from the same  
43      political party, appointed by the President of the Senate; and

44       (12) two members of the General Assembly, who shall not be  
45      from the same political party, appointed by the Speaker of the  
46      General Assembly.

47      c.   All appointments to the task force shall be made within 90  
48      days of the effective date of this act. Vacancies shall be filled in

1 the same manner as the original appointments. The task force shall  
2 select a chairperson from among the members. The chairperson  
3 shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the task  
4 force. The members of the task force shall serve without  
5 compensation but may be reimbursed, within the limits of funds  
6 made available to the task force, for necessary travel expenses  
7 incurred in the performance of their duties.

8 d. The chairperson shall call an initial meeting of the task force  
9 within 30 days of the appointment of its members and hold hearings  
10 at the times and in the places it may deem appropriate and  
11 necessary to fulfill its charge. The chairperson shall hold at least  
12 one public hearing in each of the north, central, and southern  
13 regions of the State to meet with local volunteer first responders  
14 and solicit their input regarding recommendations for retaining and  
15 recruiting volunteers.

16 e. The task force shall be entitled to call to its assistance and  
17 avail itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or  
18 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it  
19 may require and may be available to it for its purposes.

20 f. A report of the task force's findings and recommendations  
21 shall be submitted to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of  
22 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the President of the Senate and  
23 Speaker of the General Assembly no later than 12 months following  
24 the date of the task force's initial meeting.

25  
26 2. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately and shall  
27 expire upon submission of the task force's final report to the  
28 Governor and Legislature.

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31 STATEMENT

32  
33 This joint resolution establishes a "Special Task Force on  
34 Volunteer Retention and Recruitment" to study and make  
35 recommendations for strategies, incentives, and policies for the  
36 retention and recruitment of the State's volunteer first responders to  
37 ensure their ranks stabilize and grow in order to be able to  
38 adequately service the communities in this State.

39 Specifically, the task force's charge is to include, but not be  
40 limited to, the evaluation of incentives, training and recertification  
41 requirements, and the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP)  
42 for volunteer first responders.

43 The 15-member task force would be comprised of the following  
44 members: (1) the Commissioner of Health or a designee, who is to  
45 serve ex-officio; (2) the Director of the Office of Emergency  
46 Medical Services in the Department of Health or a designee, who is  
47 to serve ex-officio; (3) the Director of the Division of Fire Safety in  
48 the Department of Community Affairs or a designee, who is to

1 serve ex-officio; (4) a representative of the New Jersey State First  
2 Aid Council, appointed by the President of the Senate; (5) a  
3 representative of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association who  
4 is a member of an all volunteer fire company, appointed by the  
5 President of the Senate; (6) a representative of the New Jersey State  
6 League of Municipalities, appointed by the Speaker of the General  
7 Assembly; (7) a representative of the New Jersey Association of  
8 Counties, appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; (8)  
9 two public members who are volunteer first responders, appointed  
10 by the President of the Senate; (9) a public member who is a  
11 member of an all volunteer ambulance, first aid and rescue squad,  
12 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; (10) a public  
13 member who is a member of an all volunteer fire company,  
14 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; (11) two  
15 members of the Senate, who shall not be from the same political  
16 party, appointed by the President of the Senate; and (12) two  
17 members of the General Assembly, who shall not be from the same  
18 political party, appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly.

19 The bill requires the task force appointments to be made within  
20 90 days of the bill's effective date. The committee is to select a  
21 chairperson from among its members and the chairperson is  
22 required to appoint a secretary. The chairperson is to call an initial  
23 meeting of its members and hold hearings at the times and in the  
24 places it deems appropriate and necessary to fulfill its charge. In  
25 addition, the chairperson is required to hold at least one public  
26 hearing in the north, central, and southern regions of the State to  
27 meet with local volunteer first responders and solicit their input  
28 regarding recommendations for retaining and recruiting volunteers.

29 Finally, the task force is required to report its findings and  
30 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature no later than  
31 12 months following the date of the task force's initial meeting.