

ASSEMBLY, No. 2317

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Assemblyman PEDRO MEJIA

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Auth, Assemblywoman Tucker and Assemblyman Giblin

SYNOPSIS

Enhances PFRS accidental death benefit for surviving spouse who becomes eligible after effective date by providing for minimum of \$50,000 annually.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/5/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning the accidental death benefit of the Police and
2 Firemen's Retirement System and amending P.L.1944, c.255

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. Section 10 of P.L.1944, c.255 (C.43:16A-10) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 10. (1) Upon the death of a member in active service as a result
10 of:

11 (a) an accident met in the actual performance of duty at some
12 definite time and place, or

13 (b) service in the reserve component of the Armed Forces of the
14 United States or the National Guard in a federal active duty status,
15 and such death was not the result of the member's willful
16 negligence, an accidental death benefit shall be payable if a report
17 of the accident is filed in the office of the retirement system within
18 60 days next following the accident, but the board of trustees may
19 waive such time limit, for a reasonable period, if in the judgment of
20 the board the circumstances warrant such action. No such
21 application shall be valid or acted upon unless it is filed in the
22 office of the retirement system within five years of the date of such
23 death.

24 The provisions of this subsection shall also apply to a member
25 who is a fireman and who dies as a result of an accident met in the
26 actual performance of duty as a volunteer fireman in any
27 municipality in the State, provided the member's death was not the
28 result of the member's willful negligence.

29 (2) Upon the receipt of proper proofs of the death of a member
30 on account of which an accidental death benefit is payable, there
31 shall be paid to his widow or widower a pension of 70% of the
32 compensation **[,]** upon which contributions by the member to the
33 annuity savings fund were based in the last year of creditable
34 service, or a pension of \$50,000 when death occurs on or after the
35 effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this
36 bill), whichever is greater, for the use of herself or himself and the
37 children of the deceased member; if there is no surviving widow or
38 widower or in case the widow or widower dies, 70% of such
39 compensation will be payable to the member's surviving child or
40 surviving children in equal shares.

41 If there is no surviving widow, widower or child, 25% of the
42 compensation upon which contributions by the member to the
43 annuity savings fund were based in the last year of creditable
44 service, will be payable to one surviving dependent parent or 40%
45 of such compensation will be payable to two surviving parents in
46 equal shares.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

(6) In addition to the foregoing benefits, the State shall pay to the member's employer-sponsored health insurance program all health insurance premiums for the coverage of the member's surviving widow or widower and dependent children.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

This bill enhances the accidental death benefit of a member of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS) for a member's surviving spouse. Currently, that benefit is 70 percent of the compensation upon which contributions by the member to PFRS were based in the last year of creditable service. The bill provides an alternative benefit, if larger, of \$50,000 annually for the surviving spouse of a member who dies on or after the effective date of this bill.