

ASSEMBLY, No. 706

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblyman ZISA, Assemblywoman WEINBERG
and Assemblyman Kelly

1 AN ACT concerning the promotion of certain firefighters,
2 supplementing chapter 14 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes,
3 and making an appropriation.

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

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8 1. Upon a promotion resulting in a permanent appointment to a
9 first level through fourth level title, except for chief, any full-time paid
10 member of a paid or part-paid fire department or force or fire district
11 maintained and controlled by a board of fire commissioners and
12 supported by the municipal taxpayers shall be required, within six
13 months of appointment at the new level, to satisfactorily complete a
14 training program formulated or approved by the Division of Fire
15 Safety in the Department of Community Affairs. Regulations
16 promulgated pursuant to this act specifying the curriculum of the
17 training program shall be primarily based on Standard 1021 ("Fire
18 Officer Professional Qualifications") established by the National Fire
19 Protection Association and any other national standard which may be
20 adopted by reference. A municipality or fire district shall provide the
21 fire officer with the opportunity to participate in the program.

22 The training program shall:

23 a. Consist of a minimum of 160 hours of instruction over a
24 minimum of four weeks;

25 b. Utilize a curriculum which shall provide one-time initial training
26 for persons promoted to lieutenant, captain, battalion chief and deputy
27 chief;

28 c. Take place at central locations in the State, including county fire
29 academies or State facilities; and

30 d. Require that the fire officer either pass or fail the program. If
31 the officer fails one or more modules of the program, he shall retake
32 the failed module and pass at the appropriate level of performance.

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34 2. In addition to the supervisory training program required for fire
35 officers pursuant to section 1 of this act, full-time fire officers
36 promoted to battalion chief or deputy chief shall possess within six

1 months of appointment a valid certificate of satisfactory completion of
2 a nationally-recognized hazardous materials on-scene incident
3 command course, including any prerequisites therefor.

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5 3. The training programs required under section 1 and 2 of this act
6 shall be available to, but not required for, newly-promoted volunteer
7 fire officers.

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9 4. Expenses incurred in furnishing the programs in fire supervision
10 to an officer referred to in sections 1 and 3 of this act that are directly
11 attributable to training, including the furnishing of meals and lodging
12 at or near a training facility, shall be reimbursed by the State for the
13 first \$500,000 incurred per year, Statewide. Reasonable travel
14 expense incurred by the officer shall also be paid by the State, but only
15 if the travel expense would not otherwise be incurred by the officer in
16 the regular course of employment.

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18 5. There is appropriated \$500,000 from the General Fund to the
19 Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs to
20 effectuate the purposes of this act.

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22 6. This act shall take effect on the first day of the thirteenth month
23 after enactment and apply only to promotions thereafter.

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28 Requires supervisory training for full-time firefighters promoted to
29 certain positions.