

ASSEMBLY, No. 1057

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblyman DORIA

1 AN ACT concerning the employment of certain firefighters by
2 municipalities, and supplementing chapter 14 of Title 40A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes.

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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. a. The provisions of any other law to the contrary
9 notwithstanding, the appointing authority of a municipality which,
10 pursuant to N.J.S.40A:14-7, has established and maintains a paid or
11 part-paid fire department and force may appoint as a member or
12 officer of that fire department or force any person who:

13 (1) was serving as a civilian federal firefighter in good standing at
14 any U.S. military installation in the State;

15 (2) satisfactorily completed such firefighter training as is required
16 for employment as a civilian federal firefighter; and

17 (3) was, as a consequence of the closure of a federal military
18 installation in this State, terminated as a civilian federal firefighter
19 within 36 months prior to the appointment.

20 b. A municipality may employ such a person notwithstanding that:

21 (1) Title 11A, Civil Service, of the New Jersey Statutes is
22 operative in that municipality;

23 (2) the municipality has available to it an eligible or regular
24 reemployment list of persons eligible for such appointments; and

25 (3) the appointed person is not on any eligible list. A municipality
26 which has adopted Title 11A, Civil Service, may not employ such a
27 person if a special reemployment list is in existence for the firefighter
28 title to be filled.

29 c. If a municipality determines to appoint a person pursuant to the
30 provisions of this act, it shall give first priority in making such
31 appointments to residents of the municipality and second priority to
32 residents of the county not residing in the municipality.

33 d. The seniority, seniority-related privileges and rank a civilian
34 federal firefighter possessed while employed at a federal military
35 installation shall not be transferable to a position in a municipal fire

1 department and force obtained pursuant to the provisions of this
2 section.

3 e. To effectuate the purposes of this section, the Department of
4 Personnel shall prepare and circulate, to those municipalities which
5 have established and maintain fire departments and forces pursuant to
6 N.J.S.40A:14-7, a list of civilian federal firefighters eligible for
7 appointment under the provisions of this section.

8 To assist in the preparation of the list required under the provisions
9 of this subsection, the department shall consult with the employee
10 organizations representing those civilian federal firefighters.

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12 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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17 This bill would establish a special reemployment program for
18 civilian federal firefighters who were laid off as a result of the federal
19 government's decision to close several U.S. military installations in
20 New Jersey.

21 The program established under this bill is patterned on the
22 reemployment program the Department of Personnel currently
23 coordinates for laid-off law enforcement officers pursuant to
24 P.L.1991, c.299 (C.40A:14-180).

25 Under the provisions of the bill, federally trained civilian federal
26 firefighters who have lost their jobs due to the closure of a U.S.
27 military installation in New Jersey would be eligible for preferential
28 appointment and reemployment opportunities by municipalities. The
29 Department of Personnel is to prepare and circulate among potential
30 municipal employers a list of these laid-off civilian federal firefighters.
31 To ensure that the list of eligible firefighters is as comprehensive as
32 possible, the department is to consult with the organizations
33 representing the civilian federal firefighters.

34 This priority hiring program is designed to benefit both local
35 governmental units seeking to employ trained and experienced
36 firefighters, and unemployed, qualified firefighters who are seeking
37 employment.

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42 Authorizes municipalities to hire certain unemployed firefighters.