

ASSEMBLY, No. 2642

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 23, 1997

By Assemblymen ROMANO and GARCIA

1 AN ACT exempting certain emergency volunteers from the 7-day  
2 waiting period for workers' compensation and amending R.S.34:15-  
3 14 and R.S.34:15-75.

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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. R.S.34:15-14 is amended to read as follows:

9 34:15-14. **[No]** Except as provided pursuant to R.S.34:15-75, no  
10 compensation other than medical aid shall accrue and be payable until  
11 the employee has been disabled 7 days, whether the days of disability  
12 immediately follow the accident, or whether they be consecutive or  
13 not. These days shall be termed the waiting period. The day that the  
14 employee is unable to continue at work by reason of his accident,  
15 whether it be the day of the accident or later, shall count as one whole  
16 day of the waiting period. Should the total period of disability extend  
17 beyond 7 days, additional compensation shall at once become payable  
18 covering the above prescribed waiting period.

19 (cf: P.L.1966, c.126, s.3)

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21 2. R.S.34:15-75 is amended to read as follows:

22 34:15-75. Compensation for injury and death, either or both, of any  
23 volunteer fireman, county fire marshal, assistant county fire marshal,  
24 volunteer first aid or rescue squad worker, volunteer driver of any  
25 municipally-owned or operated ambulance, forest fire warden or forest  
26 fire fighter employed by the State of New Jersey, member of a board  
27 of education, special reserve or auxiliary policeman doing volunteer  
28 public police duty under the control or supervision of any commission,  
29 council or any other governing body of any municipality, or emergency  
30 management volunteer doing emergency management service, shall  
31 **[be]** :

32 a. Be based upon a weekly salary or compensation conclusively  
33 presumed to be received by such person in an amount sufficient to  
34 entitle him, or, in the event of his death, his dependents, to receive the

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

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1 maximum compensation by this chapter authorized; and  
2 b. Not be subject to the seven day waiting period provided in to  
3 R.S.34:15-14.  
4 (cf: P.L.1995, c.383, s.3)

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6 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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11 This bill exempts certain volunteer firefighters, first aid or rescue  
12 squad workers, and other specified emergency volunteers from the  
13 seven-day waiting period for workers' compensation imposed on other  
14 injured workers by R.S.34:15-14. Under the current law, no worker,  
15 including an emergency volunteer, may receive compensation for an  
16 injury unless the employee is disabled for more than seven days, and  
17 compensation becomes payable for the first seven days only if the  
18 period of disability extends beyond seven days. The bill would permit  
19 the payment of compensation for injuries for emergency volunteers  
20 even if the period of disability is seven days or less.

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25 Exempts emergency volunteers from the 7-day waiting period for  
26 workers' compensation.