

[First Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 2786

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 1997

By Assemblymen KELLY and Zisa

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

4

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

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8 1. Any person appointed after the effective date of this act to a
9 Firefighter I or similar title, for career service as a paid member of a
10 paid or part-paid fire department or force or of a fire district
11 maintained and controlled by a board of fire commissioners and
12 supported by the municipal taxpayers, shall be required to
13 satisfactorily complete a basic training program ¹[formulated or]¹
14 approved by the Division of Fire Safety in the Department of
15 Community Affairs as a prerequisite for assignment to suppression or
16 rescue duty.

17 Regulations promulgated pursuant to this act specifying the
18 curriculum of the training program shall be primarily based on
19 ¹[Standard 1001, "Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications,"
20 established by the National Fire Protection Association,] standards set
21 forth in chapter 18C of Title Five of the New Jersey Administrative
22 Code¹ or any ¹[other] recognized¹ national standard ¹[, or both,] ¹
23 which may be adopted by reference. ¹Regulations adopted by
24 reference may be modified as deemed necessary by the Commissioner
25 of Community Affairs.¹ A municipality or fire district shall provide
26 the fire fighter with the opportunity to participate in the program.

27 The training program shall:

28 a. Consist of a minimum of 84 hours of instruction over a minimum
29 period of weeks to be established by rule and regulation;

30 b. Utilize a curriculum which shall provide one-time initial training;

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly ALP committee amendments adopted May 5, 1997.

1 c. Take place at central locations in the State, including county
2 fire academies or State facilities;

3 d. Require that the fire fighter either pass or fail the program
4 within one year of appointment. If the person fails one or more
5 modules of the program, he shall retake the failed module and pass at
6 the appropriate level of performance; and

7 e. Be available to ¹, but not mandatory for,¹ volunteer fire fighters
8 ¹[at their own expense]¹.

9
10 2. Expenses incurred in furnishing the programs in fire fighting to
11 fire fighters referred to in section 1 of this act that are directly
12 attributable to training¹[, including regular compensation and the
13 furnishing of meals and lodging at or near a training facility,]¹ shall be
14 ¹annually¹ reimbursed by the ¹[State. Reasonable travel expenses
15 incurred by the fire fighter shall also be paid by the State, but only if
16 the travel expense would not otherwise be incurred by the fire fighter
17 in the regular course of his employment] Division of Fire Safety in an
18 amount not to exceed \$500,000 in any fiscal year¹.

19
20 3. The Commissioner of Community Affairs shall, in accordance
21 with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-
22 1 et seq.) promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the
23 implementation of this act.

24
25 ¹[4. There is appropriated \$550,000 from the General Fund to the
26 Department of Community Affairs to effectuate the purposes of this
27 act.]¹

28
29 ¹[5.] 4.¹ This act shall take effect on the first day of the tenth
30 month after enactment and apply only to initial fire fighter
31 appointments thereafter.

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36 Mandates basic training for certain newly-appointed entry-level
37 firefighters.