

ASSEMBLY, No. 2912

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 1997

By Assemblyman KRAMER

1 AN ACT concerning the providing of emergency medical and rescue
2 services by fire districts and amending N.J.S.40A:14-81, 40A:14-
3 84, and 40A:14-85.

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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. N.J.S.40A:14-81 is amended to read as follows:

9 The commissioners of a fire district shall have the powers, duties
10 and functions within said district to the same extent as in the case of
11 municipalities, relating to the prevention and extinguishment of fires
12 [and] , the regulation of fire hazards and the provision of emergency
13 medical and rescue services.

14 Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to affect the powers,
15 duties and functions of the State Department of Environmental
16 Protection pertaining to forest fire services.

17 (cf: N.J.S.40A:14-81)

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19 2. N.J.S.40A:14-84 is amended to read as follows:

20 The legal voters, at the annual meeting or at a special meeting
21 called by the commissioners of the fire district, may vote to raise
22 money for a firehouse, apparatus and appliances in connection
23 therewith for fire extinguishing purposes, and may vote to raise money
24 for emergency medical and rescue equipment and supplies, in an
25 amount not exceeding 5 mills on the dollar of the last assessed
26 valuation of the property in the fire district. The amount so voted for
27 shall be included in the [next succeeding] annual budget of the fire
28 district under the section for capital appropriations.

29 Any such special meeting shall be called on 10 days' notice by the
30 board of fire commissioners, to be posted in five public places in the
31 district, setting forth the time, place and object of the meeting and the
32 legal voters shall determine the amount of money to be raised.

33 (cf: P.L.1979, c.453, s.15)

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 3. N.J.S.40A:14-85 is amended to read as follows:

2 The board of commissioners of a fire district may purchase fire
3 engines, emergency service vehicles, apparatus or other appliances for
4 the extinguishment of fires and the provision of emergency medical
5 and rescue services, and acquire lands or buildings or erect buildings
6 for the housing of such equipment, at a cost not exceeding
7 \$60,000.00 or 2% of the assessed valuation of the taxable property in
8 the district, whichever amount is larger, the money to be raised by a
9 bond issue. Any such bond issue shall be authorized by a resolution
10 of the commissioners specifying the amount and the purpose thereof.
11 The resolution shall be inoperative unless and until it shall have been
12 submitted to and approved by the legal voters within said fire district
13 at the annual election held for the election of commissioners and
14 appropriation of money for fire extinguishing purposes or for
15 emergency medical and rescue services, or at a special election for
16 such purpose.

17 The resolution shall be written or printed and the election shall be
18 upon notice stating the time and place. If said election is to be the
19 annual one, the notices shall be posted by the clerk of the board of fire
20 commissioners in 10 public places, at least 10 days prior to the date of
21 the election. The board of commissioners and the clerk, in their or his
22 discretion, may advertise the election in a newspaper, published in the
23 fire district, if any, otherwise in a newspaper published in the county
24 of said district and circulating in such district. When a special
25 election is specified notices shall be posted in 10 public places, at least
26 21 days prior to the date of election, and the clerk of said board shall
27 advertise said notice in such a newspaper at least twice prior to the
28 election date.

29 (cf: N.J.S.40A:14-85)

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31 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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36 This bill would allow fire districts to provide for emergency medical
37 and rescue services. Specifically, the bill would authorize
38 commissioners of a fire district 1) to provide for emergency medical
39 and rescue services to the same extent as municipalities do; and 2) to
40 purchase emergency service vehicles, apparatus, or other appliances
41 for providing emergency medical and rescue services, and acquire
42 lands or buildings or erect buildings for the housing of such
43 equipment. Further, the bill would permit the legal voters, at the
44 annual meeting or at a special meeting called by the commissioners of
45 the fire district, to vote to raise money for emergency medical and
46 rescue equipment and supplies.

1 The bill would also delete the words "next succeeding" from N.J.S.
2 40A:14-84 so that budget amounts voted on at the annual or special
3 meeting of the fire district may be included in the current year's budget
4 instead of the next succeeding annual budget.

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9 Permits fire districts to provide emergency medical and rescue
10 services.