

ASSEMBLY, No. 2971

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 1997

By Assemblymen ASSELTA, GIBSON and Kelly

1 AN ACT allowing emergency medical technicians to transfer to and
2 enroll in the Police and Firemen's Retirement System and
3 supplementing P.L.1944, c.255 (C.43:16A-1 et seq.) .
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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. As used in this act:

9 "emergency medical technician" means any paid, permanent,
10 uniformed, full-time employee of a firefighting unit or emergency
11 medical services unit who is subject to the training and physical and
12 mental fitness requirements established by the employer. "Emergency
13 medical technician" shall also mean any administrative or supervisory
14 employee of a firefighting unit or emergency medical services unit
15 whose duties include general or direct supervision or training of
16 employees engaged in the provision of emergency medical services;

17 "emergency medical services unit" means an agency of the State or
18 a county or municipality, including an authority thereof, responsible
19 for the provision of emergency medical or ambulance services; and

20 "firefighting unit" means a State, county or municipal fire
21 department, fire district or agency responsible for the control and
22 extinguishing of fires.
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24 2. An emergency medical technician who is enrolled in the Public
25 Employees' Retirement System, established pursuant to P.L.1954, c.84
26 (C.43:15A-1 et seq.), may transfer membership to the Police and
27 Firemen's Retirement System, established pursuant to P.L.1944, c.255
28 (C.43:16A-1 et seq.), by waiving all rights and benefits which would
29 otherwise be provided by the Public Employees' Retirement System.
30 An emergency medical technician may continue membership in the
31 Public Employees' Retirement System by waiving all rights and
32 benefits which would otherwise be provided by the Police and
33 Firemen's Retirement System. Such waivers shall be accomplished by
34 filing forms satisfactory to the Division of Pensions and Benefits in the
35 Department of the Treasury within 90 days after the effective date of
36 this act. In the absence of the filing of a timely waiver by an eligible
37 emergency medical technician, the pension status of that emergency

1 medical technician shall remain unchanged, and the membership of the
2 emergency medical technician shall not be transferred to the Police and
3 Firemen's Retirement System.

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5 3. Within 120 days after the effective date of this act, the Public
6 Employees' Retirement System shall remit to the Police and Firemen's
7 Retirement System all accumulated deductions standing to the credit
8 of each transferred employee as a member of that retirement system,
9 and within 180 days following the effective date of this act remit the
10 pro-rata part of the reserve fund constituting the employer's
11 obligations under the Public Employees' Retirement System applicable
12 to the employee's account, and the Police and Firemen's Retirement
13 System shall then enter the respective sums so remitted to it to the
14 credit of the employee in the annuity savings fund and to the credit of
15 the employer in the pension accumulation fund of the Police and
16 Firemen's Retirement System. Regular interest shall be added to the
17 employer's obligations if the moneys are not remitted within the
18 periods prescribed by this section.

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20 4. The transferred employees shall be members of the Police and
21 Firemen's Retirement System and deductions from their salaries and
22 contributions on their behalf shall thereafter be made as required by
23 P.L.1944, c.255 (C.43:16A-1 et seq.). The transferred employees
24 shall have the same contribution obligation and enjoy the same rights
25 and benefits as other members of the retirement system. Any credit for
26 public service which had been established in the Public Employees'
27 Retirement System by the transferred employee shall be established in
28 the Police and Firemen's Retirement System.

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30 5. The actuary of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System shall
31 calculate the liability of each employer of employees becoming
32 members of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System under this act,
33 taking into account the value of moneys remitted by the Public
34 Employees' Retirement System. In the event that the value of the
35 money so remitted is less than the total which is required by the Police
36 and Firemen's Retirement System to provide the transferred member
37 with credit for all public service, the employee shall be responsible for
38 the amount equal to the difference between these two values.

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40 6. Any emergency medical technician hired on or after the effective
41 date of this act shall be enrolled in the Police and Firemen's Retirement
42 System.

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44 7. The Director of the Division of Pensions and Benefits in the
45 Department of the Treasury may promulgate rules and regulations

1 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
2 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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4 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

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7 STATEMENT

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9 This bill allows emergency medical technicians to transfer to and
10 enroll in the Police and Firemen's Retirement System. It provides that
11 an emergency medical technician who is enrolled in the Public
12 Employees' Retirement System may transfer membership to the Police
13 and Firemen's Retirement System by waiving all rights and benefits
14 which would otherwise be provided by the Public Employees'
15 Retirement System. Any emergency medical technician may continue
16 membership in the Public Employees' Retirement System by waiving
17 all rights and benefits which would otherwise be provided by the
18 Police and Firemen's Retirement System. Such waivers shall be
19 accomplished by filing forms satisfactory to the Division of Pensions
20 and Benefits in the Department of the Treasury within 90 days after
21 the effective date of this act.

22 The actuary of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System shall
23 calculate the liability of each employer of employees becoming
24 members of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System under this act,
25 taking into account the value of moneys remitted by the Public
26 Employees' Retirement System. In the event that the value of the
27 money so remitted is less than the total which is required by the Police
28 and Firemen's Retirement System to provide the transferred member
29 with credit for all public service, the employee shall be responsible for
30 the amount equal to the difference between these two values.

31 Any emergency medical technician hired on or after the effective
32 date of this act shall be enrolled in the Police and Firemen's Retirement
33 System. The bill applies to emergency medical technicians who are
34 paid, permanent, uniformed, full-time employees of a firefighting unit
35 or emergency medical services unit.

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40 _____
41 Allows emergency medical technicians to transfer to and enroll in
PFRS.