

SENATE, No. 564

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 29, 1996

By Senator BASSANO

1 AN ACT concerning fire safety and supplementing P.L.1983, c.383  
2 (C.52:27D-192 et seq.).

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

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7 1. a. The governing body of each municipality shall adopt an  
8 ordinance requiring the owner to remove snow from any fire hydrant  
9 located on his property. The ordinance shall provide that whenever  
10 there is a snowfall of four or more inches in the municipality, the  
11 owner of each property on which there is located a fire hydrant shall  
12 remove the snow within a two foot area around that hydrant within 24  
13 hours of the cessation of the snowfall. The ordinance also shall  
14 provide that violators shall be subject to a fine. The fine imposed shall  
15 not be less than \$25 or more than \$500. The governing body may  
16 provide a waiver in the ordinance for property owners having medical  
17 or health conditions which would make the removal of snow from the  
18 fire hydrants located on their property a danger to their personal well-  
19 being or for any other unusual circumstance.

20 b. The Commissioner of Community Affairs, pursuant to the  
21 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
22 seq.), shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes  
23 of this act. Those rules and regulations shall include a model  
24 ordinance to assist governing bodies fulfill their responsibilities under  
25 subsection a. of this section.

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27 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month  
28 following enactment.

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STATEMENT

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33 This bill supplements the "Uniform Fire Safety Act" (P.L.1983,  
34 c.383; C.52:27D-192 et seq.) to require property owners to remove  
35 snow from around any fire hydrants on their property.

36 Under the provisions of the bill, the governing body of each  
37 municipality is to adopt an ordinance requiring property owners to

1 remove snow from a two foot area around the fire hydrants on their  
2 property whenever there is a snowfall of four or more inches. The  
3 removal is to take place within 24 hours of the cessation of the  
4 snowfall. An owner who fails to remove the snow from around a fire  
5 hydrant on his property is subject to a fine of not less than \$25 or  
6 more than \$500.

7 The bill authorizes the governing body to provide a waiver in the  
8 ordinance exempting owners whose physical condition or health would  
9 make it personally dangerous or threatening to their well-being to do  
10 such snow removal work. Waivers for "unusual circumstances" are  
11 also permitted under the bill.

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16 Requires owners to remove snow around fire hydrants on their  
17 property.