

SENATE, No. 2043

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 8, 1997

By Senator CASEY

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

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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. Upon a promotion resulting in a permanent appointment to a
9 first level through fourth level title, except for chief, any full-time paid
10 member of a paid or part-paid fire department or force or fire district
11 maintained and controlled by a board of fire commissioners and
12 supported by the municipal taxpayers shall be required, within six
13 months of appointment at the new level, to satisfactorily complete a
14 training program formulated or approved by the Division of Fire
15 Safety in the Department of Community Affairs. Regulations
16 promulgated pursuant to this act specifying the curriculum of the
17 training program shall be primarily based on Standard 1021 ("Fire
18 Officer Professional Qualifications") established by the National Fire
19 Protection Association and any other national standard which may be
20 adopted by reference. A municipality or fire district shall provide the
21 fire officer with the opportunity to participate in the program.

22 The training program shall:

23 a. Consist of a minimum of 160 hours of instruction over a
24 minimum of four weeks;

25 b. Utilize a curriculum which shall provide one-time initial training
26 for persons promoted to lieutenant, captain, battalion chief and deputy
27 chief;

28 c. Take place at central locations in the State, including county fire
29 academies or State facilities; and

30 d. Require that the fire officer either pass or fail the program. If
31 the officer fails one or more modules of the program, he shall retake
32 the failed module and pass at the appropriate level of performance.

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34 2. In addition to the supervisory training program required for fire
35 officers pursuant to section 1 of this act, full-time fire officers
36 promoted to battalion chief or deputy chief shall possess within six
37 months of appointment a valid certificate of satisfactory completion of

1 a nationally-recognized hazardous materials on-scene incident
2 command course, including any prerequisites therefor.

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4 3. The training programs required under section 1 and 2 of this act
5 shall be available to, but not required for, newly-promoted volunteer
6 fire officers.

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8 4. Expenses incurred in furnishing the programs in fire supervision
9 to an officer referred to in sections 1 and 3 of this act that are directly
10 attributable to training, including the furnishing of meals and lodging
11 at or near a training facility, shall be reimbursed by the State for the
12 first \$500,000 incurred per year, Statewide. Reasonable travel
13 expense incurred by the officer shall also be paid by the State, but only
14 if the travel expense would not otherwise be incurred by the officer in
15 the regular course of employment.

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17 5. There is appropriated \$500,000 from the General Fund to the
18 Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs to
19 effectuate the purposes of this act.

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21 6. This act shall take effect on the first day of the thirteenth month
22 after enactment and apply only to promotions thereafter.

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25 STATEMENT

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27 This bill requires paid or part-paid, full-time members of a fire
28 department or municipal fire district to satisfactorily complete within
29 six months of a promotion to supervisory positions other than chief a
30 training program formulated or approved by the Division of Fire
31 Safety in the Department of Community Affairs. The curriculum is to
32 be based on National Fire Protection Association Standard 1021 and
33 consist of 160 hours of instruction offered in central locations
34 throughout the State over a period of at least four weeks. Any
35 modules of the course that are initially failed must be retaken until
36 passed.

37 Within six months of a promotion to battalion chief or deputy chief,
38 a full-time fire officer must also be certified as having completed a
39 nationally recognized hazardous materials on-scene incident command
40 course.

41 The bill does not require volunteer firefighters promoted to the
42 relevant supervisory positions to complete these training courses, but
43 the training must be made available to volunteers who wish to
44 participate. Only firefighters who have been promoted after the
45 enactment of this bill are subject to its provisions.

46 The State is responsible for covering the expenses associated with

1 this training, including the cost of food and lodging at training
2 facilities and travel expenses that would not have otherwise been
3 incurred in the normal course of employment. The bill appropriates
4 \$500,000 from the General Fund to the Division of Fire Safety for this
5 purpose.

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10 Requires supervisory training for full-time firefighters promoted to
11 certain positions.