

ASSEMBLY, No. 5075

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 7, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN J. BURZICHELLI

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Clifton

SYNOPSIS

Establishes New Jersey Fire Museum and Fallen Firefighter Memorial Commission.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/16/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning firefighters and supplementing Title 28 of the
2 Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. There is established, in the Department of State, the New
8 Jersey Fire Museum and Fallen Firefighter Memorial Commission.
9 The purpose of the commission shall be to oversee a permanent fire
10 museum and fallen firefighter memorial to honor New Jersey's
11 proud history of firefighting service and the brave men and women
12 who have sacrificed their lives in the fire service.

13 b. The commission shall consist of 12 members as follows:

14 (1) the Secretary of State or a designee, who shall serve ex-
15 officio;

16 (2) the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental
17 Protection or a designee, who shall serve ex-officio;

18 (3) the Director of the Division of Fire Safety or a designee,
19 who shall serve ex-officio;

20 (4) two members who are currently serving as board members of
21 the New Jersey Fire Engine and Equipment Museum, Incorporated,
22 to be appointed by the Governor, based upon the recommendation
23 of the current board members of the New Jersey Fire Engine and
24 Equipment Museum, Incorporated;

25 (5) one member appointed by the President of the Senate, and
26 one member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly,
27 each currently or previously affiliated with fire service or a State
28 recognized fire association;

29 (6) one member appointed by the President of the Senate, and
30 one member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly,
31 each currently or previously affiliated with an existing New Jersey
32 museum or historical commission;

33 (7) three members appointed by the Governor, including one
34 member currently or previously affiliated with fire service or a State
35 recognized fire association and one member currently or previously
36 affiliated with an existing New Jersey museum or historical
37 commission appointed upon the recommendation of the New Jersey
38 State Museum in the Department of State.

39 c. Appointments to the commission shall be made within 90
40 days of the effective date of this act. Each appointed member shall
41 serve for a term of three years. Vacancies in the membership of the
42 commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original
43 appointments were made. Members of the commission shall serve
44 without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for the necessary
45 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties within the
46 limits of the funds made available to the commission for its
47 purpose.

1 d. The commission shall organize within 30 days after the
2 appointment of its members. The commission shall select a
3 chairperson from among the members. The commission shall meet
4 at the call of the chairperson at the times and places it may deem
5 appropriate and necessary to fulfill its duties, except that the
6 commission shall meet a minimum of four times per year. A
7 majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose
8 of conducting business.

9 e. The commission shall appoint an executive director, who
10 shall serve at its pleasure and shall be a person qualified by training
11 and experience to perform the duties of the office.

12
13 2 a. The New Jersey Fire Museum and Fallen Firefighter
14 Memorial Commission established pursuant to section 1 of
15 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall
16 have the following responsibilities and duties:

17 (1) to make, amend, and repeal rules and bylaws for its own
18 governance and guidance not inconsistent with State and federal
19 law;

20 (2) to maintain an office within the State as it may designate;

21 (3) to contract for, accept, solicit, or collect any grants, loans,
22 funds, property, or other aid in any form from the United States of
23 America or any agency or instrumentality thereof, from the State or
24 any agency, instrumentality, or political subdivision thereof, or
25 from any other public source;

26 (4) to exercise all of the powers, functions, and duties
27 previously exercised by the former New Jersey Fire Engine and
28 Equipment Museum, Incorporated, except as herein provided
29 pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
30 this act);

31 (5) to make and enter into contracts, leases, agreements, and
32 purchases necessary for the use, or incidental to the performance of,
33 the commission's duties and the exercise of its powers pursuant to
34 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this act);

35 (6) to insure against any losses in connection with the
36 commission's properties, operations, or assets;

37 (7) to formulate and adopt rules and regulations for the efficient
38 conduct of the work and general administration of the commission,
39 its officers, and employees;

40 (8) to institute or cause to be instituted any legal proceedings or
41 processes as may be necessary to properly enforce and give effect to
42 any of the powers or duties of the executive director or the
43 commission;

44 (9) to develop an economic development master plan
45 identifying the commission's objectives, policies, and programs
46 which will encourage the museum's attraction, expansion, and
47 retention;

1 (10) to support and maintain existing museum facilities and
2 services for the educational or recreational use and benefit of the
3 public;

4 (11) to maintain exhibits and displays to promote and develop
5 public interest and understanding of firefighter history; and

6 (12) to develop, raise funds for, build and operate a fire
7 museum, fire safety education center, and fallen firefighters
8 memorial, and to provide for the display of fire apparatus and
9 equipment, along with the history and documentation available for
10 preservation.

11 (13) to determine the best course of action regarding museum
12 collections both owned by and lent to the commission including, but
13 not limited to, assuming control of all fire apparatus, or continuing
14 any current ownerships agreements entered into by the former board
15 of the New Jersey Fire Engine and Equipment Museum,
16 Incorporated.

17 b. The former board of the New Jersey Fire Engine and
18 Equipment Museum, Incorporated shall continue to operate in an
19 advisory capacity to the commission established pursuant to section
20 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
21 and shall report directly to the executive director and commission.
22 The former board shall advise the executive director and
23 commission with respect to the history and future of the fire
24 museum and fallen firefighter memorial on issues including, but not
25 limited to:

26 (1) maintenance of the fire apparatus collection and existing
27 museum facilities;

28 (2) museum facility expansion, development, and strategic
29 planning;

30 (3) marketing, budget, and fundraising issues;

31 (4) educational and recreational programs held at the museum
32 facilities; and

33 (5) plans and preparations for preservation and restoration of
34 museum collection pieces.

35
36 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
37
38

39 STATEMENT
40

41 This bill establishes, in the Department of State, the New Jersey
42 Fire Museum and Fallen Firefighter Memorial Commission. The
43 purpose of the commission is to oversee a permanent firefighter
44 museum and fallen firefighter memorial to honor New Jersey's
45 proud history of firefighting service and the brave men and women
46 who have sacrificed their lives in the fire service.

47 The commission is to consist of 12 members as follows: the
48 Secretary of State or a designee; the Commissioner of the

1 Department of Environmental Protection or a designee; the Director
2 of the Division of Fire Safety or a designee; two members who are
3 currently serving as board members of the New Jersey Fire Engine
4 and Equipment Museum, Incorporated; one member appointed by
5 the President of the Senate and one member appointed by the
6 Speaker of the General Assembly, each currently or previously
7 affiliated with fire service or a State recognized fire association;
8 one member appointed by the President of the Senate, and one
9 member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, each
10 currently or previously affiliated with an existing New Jersey
11 museum or historical commission; and three members appointed by
12 the Governor, including one member currently or previously
13 affiliated with fire service or a State recognized fire association and
14 one member currently or previously affiliated with an existing New
15 Jersey museum or historical commission appointed upon the
16 recommendation of the New Jersey State Museum in the
17 Department of State.

18 The New Jersey Fire Museum and Fallen Firefighter Memorial
19 Commission would have the following rights and responsibilities:

- 20 • to make, amend, and repeal rules and bylaws for its own
21 governance and guidance not inconsistent with State and
22 federal law;
- 23 • to maintain an office within the State as it may designate;
- 24 • to contract for, accept, solicit or collect any grants, loans,
25 funds, property, or other aid in any form from the United
26 States of America or any agency or instrumentality thereof,
27 from the State or any agency, instrumentality or political
28 subdivision thereof, or from any other public source;
- 29 • to exercise all of the powers, functions, and duties
30 previously exercised by the former New Jersey Fire Engine
31 and Equipment Museum, Incorporated, except as otherwise
32 provided;
- 33 • to make and enter into contracts, leases, agreements, and
34 purchases necessary for the use, or incidental to the
35 performance of, the commission's duties and the exercise of
36 its powers;
- 37 • to insure against any losses in connection with the
38 commission's properties, operations, or assets;
- 39 • to appoint the executive director of the commission and to
40 formulate and adopt rules and regulations for the efficient
41 conduct of the work and general administration of the
42 commission, its officers, and employees;
- 43 • to institute or cause to be instituted any legal proceedings or
44 processes as may be necessary to properly enforce and give
45 effect to any of the powers or duties of the executive director
46 or the commission;
- 47 • to develop an economic development master plan identifying
48 the commission's objectives, policies, and programs which

- 1 will encourage the museum's attraction, expansion, and
2 retention;
- 3 • to support and maintain existing museum facilities and
4 services for the educational or recreational use and benefit of
5 the public;
 - 6 • to maintain exhibits and displays to promote and develop
7 public interest and understanding of firefighter history; and
 - 8 • to develop, raise funds for, build and operate a fire museum,
9 fire safety education center, and fallen firefighters memorial,
10 and to provide for the display of fire apparatus and
11 equipment, along with the history and documentation
12 available for preservation; and
 - 13 • to determine the best course of action regarding museum
14 collections both owned by and lent to the commission,
15 including but not limiting to assuming control of all fire
16 apparatus, or continuing any current ownerships agreements
17 entered into by the former board of the New Jersey Fire
18 Engine and Equipment Museum, Incorporated.
- 19 In addition, the bill provides that the former board of the New
20 Jersey Fire Engine and Equipment Museum, Incorporated is to
21 continue to operate in an advisory capacity to the commission and
22 report directly to the executive director and commission. The
23 former board is to advise the executive director and commission
24 with respect to the history and future of the fire museum and fallen
25 firefighter memorial on issues including, but not limited to:
- 26 • maintenance of the fire apparatus collection and existing
27 museum facilities;
 - 28 • museum facility expansion, development, and strategic
29 planning;
 - 30 • marketing, budget and fundraising issues;
 - 31 • educational and recreational programs held at the museum
32 facilities; and
 - 33 • plans and preparations for preservation and restoration of
34 museum collection pieces.