

# SENATE COMMUNITY AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### SENATE, No. 1256

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 14, 2021

The Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1256.

This bill would resolve an apparent conflict between provisions in chapter 10 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes, which permit municipalities to offer group health insurance benefits to volunteer fire fighters and emergency responders, and provisions in chapter 27A of Title 17B of the New Jersey Statutes regarding small employer health benefits plans. For example, although N.J.S.40A:10-30 authorizes a municipality to provide group health plans to volunteer firefighters, those volunteers are not considered eligible employees under the small employer health benefits plan statutes. This bill would clarify that these volunteers, as well as emergency responders, may be included in the group of eligible employees in municipalities regarded as small employers, and thereby receive coverage under the same group plan.