

SENATE, No. 1074

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 4, 2010

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY R. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris)

SYNOPSIS

Mandates basic training for certain newly-appointed entry-level firefighters and supervisory training for full-time firefighters promoted to certain positions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



- 1 a. Consist of minimum of 160 hours of instruction completed
2 over a minimum of four weeks;
- 3 b. Utilize a curriculum which shall provide one-time initial
4 training for persons promoted to a third or fourth level title, or to
5 battalion chief or deputy chief;
- 6 c. Take place out of State, or in central locations in the State,
7 including county fire academies or State facilities;
- 8 d. Require that the fire officer either pass or fail the program.
9 If the officer fails one or more modules of the program, he shall
10 retake the failed module and pass at the appropriate level of
11 performance; and
- 12 e. Be available to, but not mandatory for, volunteer fire
13 officers.
- 14
- 15 5. In addition to the supervisory training program required for
16 fire officers pursuant to section 4 of this act, full-time fire officers
17 promoted to battalion chief or deputy chief shall possess within one
18 year of appointment a valid certificate of satisfactory completion of
19 a nationally-recognized hazardous materials on-scene incident
20 command course, including any prerequisites therefore.
- 21
- 22 6. The training programs required under sections 4 and 5 of
23 this act shall be available to, but not required for, newly-promoted
24 volunteer fire officers.
- 25
- 26 7. Expenses incurred in furnishing the programs in fire
27 supervision under sections 3 through 6 of this act that are directly
28 attributable to training shall be reimbursed annually by the Division
29 of Fire Safety in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 in any fiscal
30 year.
- 31
- 32 8. The Commissioner of Community Affairs shall, in
33 accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
34 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) promulgate rules and regulations
35 necessary for the implement of this act.
- 36
- 37 9. This act shall take effect on the first day of the thirteenth
38 month after enactment and apply only to initial firefighter
39 appointments and fire officer promotions that occur after the
40 effective date.
- 41

42
43 STATEMENT

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45 This bill would establish basic training requirements for paid
46 entry-level firefighters. The bill also would require training for
47 paid firefighters promoted to supervisory positions and hazardous
48 materials training for battalion and deputy chiefs. Only initial

1 firefighter appointments and firefighter promotions that occur after
2 the bill is enacted are affected by the new training requirements.

3 The basic training program for entry-level firefighters would be a
4 prerequisite for any assignment to suppression or rescue duty,
5 would consist of this State's Firefighter I training hours, and utilize
6 a curriculum providing one-time initial training. The training
7 program would be approved by the Division of Fire Safety in the
8 Department of Community Affairs, and be primarily based upon the
9 standards set forth for fire service training and certification in the
10 New Jersey Administrative Code, or any recognized national
11 standard which may be adopted by reference (see N.J.A.C.5:73-1.1
12 et seq.).

13 Fire officers promoted to a first or second level title, or to
14 lieutenant or captain, also would have to complete a training
15 program formulated or approved by the Division of Fire Safety
16 within one year of the promotion. The program would consist of at
17 least 160 hours of instruction over four weeks which is offered at
18 out-of-State locations or at central locations throughout the State,
19 and would provide one-time initial training for these persons. This
20 training program would be primarily based on appropriate standards
21 established by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA),
22 and any other recognized national standard which may be adopted
23 by reference.

24 Under the bill, fire officers promoted to a third or fourth level
25 title, or to battalion or deputy chief, also would have to complete a
26 training program formulated or approved by the Division of Fire
27 Safety. The program would consist of at least 160 hours of
28 instruction over four weeks which is offered at out-of-State
29 locations or at central locations throughout the State, and would
30 provide one-time initial training for these persons.

31 Additionally, any full-time fire officers promoted to battalion or
32 deputy chief would be required to complete a nationally recognized
33 hazardous materials on-scene incident command course.

34 The training programs required by the bill would have to be
35 satisfactorily completed within one year of the person's appointment
36 or promotion. If an entry-level or supervisory firefighter in any of
37 the fails any module, or segment, they would be required to retake
38 that failed module and pass at the appropriate level of performance
39 in order to satisfactorily complete the program.

40 Also, expenses incurred in furnishing any training program that
41 is directly attributable to training would be annually reimbursed by
42 the Division of Fire Safety. The total level of reimbursement by the
43 division would be an amount not to exceed \$500,000 in any fiscal
44 year for entry-level firefighter training, and an amount not to
45 exceed \$500,000 in any fiscal year for fire officer training.

46 Finally, the training programs would be made available, but not
47 mandatory, for volunteer firefighters and newly-promoted volunteer
48 fire officers.