

SENATE, No. 3423

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 10, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires standards for organization and deployment of career fire fighters be consistent with certain national standards.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing statewide standards, consistent with certain
2 national standards, for organization and deployment of fire
3 suppression operations by career fire departments, and amending
4 N.J.S.40A:14-7 and P.L.1995, c.266.

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

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9 1. N.J.S.40A:14-7 is amended to read as follows:

10 40A:14-7. The governing body of any municipality, by
11 ordinance, may create and establish a paid or part-paid fire
12 department and force and provide for the maintenance, regulation
13 and control thereof, and except as otherwise provided by law,
14 appoint such members, officers and personnel as shall be deemed
15 necessary, determine their terms of office, fix their compensation
16 and prescribe their powers, functions and duties and adopt and
17 promulgate rules and regulations for the government of the
18 department and force and for the discipline of its members.

19 The governing body of a municipality, or the board of fire
20 commissioners, in the case of a fire district established pursuant to
21 the provisions of N.J.S.40A:14-70 et seq., which body or board has
22 established and maintains a paid or part-paid fire department and
23 force, shall ensure the deployment of fire-fighting personnel, for
24 rescue, fire suppression, and related activities, consistently with the
25 standards set forth in NFPA 1710 (2020 edition), and the rules and
26 regulations promulgated pursuant to subsection b. of section 4 of
27 P.L.1995, c.266 (C.52:27D-25k).

28 (cf: N.J.S.40A:14-7)

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30 2. Section 2 of P.L.1995, c.266 (C.52:27D-25i) is amended to
31 read as follows:

32 2. As used in **[this act]** P.L.1995, c.266 (C.52:27D-25i et al):

33 "Career fire department" means a paid or part-paid fire
34 department that employs career or part-paid fire-fighting personnel
35 to be immediately available to respond to at least 50 percent of an
36 initial full-alarm assignment for rescue, fire suppression, and
37 related activities.

38 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Community
39 Affairs.

40 "Division" means the Division of Fire Safety in the Department
41 of Community Affairs.

42 "Fire service" means the State, a county or municipal agency or
43 fire district utilizing volunteer, career or part-paid fire fighters for
44 rescue, fire suppression and related activities.

45 "Fire service instructor" means a career or volunteer or part-paid

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 fire fighter who has been certified by the division to deliver fire
2 fighter training after completing a prescribed curriculum.

3 "Fire service training organization" means any State, county or
4 municipal agency or other entity, either public or private, which
5 trains fire fighters.

6 "Incident management system" means a nationally recognized
7 and organized system of rules, responsibilities and standard
8 operating procedures used to manage emergency operations.

9 "Live fire training" means training that involves any open flame
10 or device that can propagate fire.

11 (cf: P.L.1995, c.266, s.2)

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13 3. Section 4 of P.L.1995, c.266 (C.52:27D-25k) is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 4. a. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations
16 for the establishment of a mandatory incident management system
17 to be used by the fire service.

18 b. The commissioner, in consultation with the fire safety
19 commission, shall promulgate rules and regulations to establish a
20 technical implementation guide which shall require a career fire
21 department to organize and deploy personnel consistently with
22 NFPA 1710 (2020 edition).

23 (cf: P.L.1995, c.266, s.4)

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25 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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30 This bill requires the Commissioner of Community Affairs to
31 adopt rules for the deployment of career fire fighters that are
32 consistent with the standards promulgated by the National Fire
33 Protection Association (NFPA), NFPA 1710 (2020 edition). The
34 bill also requires the appointing authority of each career fire
35 department to ensure the deployment of fire fighting personnel, for
36 rescue, fire suppression, and related activities, consistently with the
37 standards set forth in NFPA 1710 (2020 edition) and the rules and
38 regulations promulgated pursuant to this bill.

39 While a municipality may have authority to determine the overall
40 level of fire protection to provide within its jurisdiction, a
41 municipality that has established and maintains a paid or part-paid
42 fire department and force is to deploy fire-fighting personnel
43 consistently with NFPA 1710, the national standard designed to
44 enhance the safety of the employees of career fire departments.
45 This bill will prevent local units from relaxing fire fighter safety
46 requirements due to possible fiscal constraints or political concerns.