

SENATE, No. 4826

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 15, 2026

Sponsored by:

Senator ANDREW ZWICKER

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes county and municipal discretion to fund first aid and emergency or volunteer ambulance or rescue squad associations; directs Division of Local Government Services to promulgate model regulations.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the funding of first aid and emergency or
2 volunteer ambulance or rescue squad associations and amending
3 R.S.40:5-2.

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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. R.S.40:5-2 is amended to read as follows:

9 40:5-2. a. Any county, by resolution, or municipality, by
10 ordinance, may make a voluntary contribution **[of not more than**
11 **\$125,000]** in an amount determined by resolution or ordinance
12 pursuant to subsection d. of this section annually to any duly
13 incorporated first aid and emergency or volunteer ambulance or
14 rescue squad association of the county, or of any municipality
15 therein, rendering service generally throughout the county, or any
16 of the municipalities thereof. In addition, if any **[such]**
17 associations experience extraordinary need, the county or
18 municipality may contribute an additional amount **[of not more**
19 **than \$70,000]** determined by resolution or ordinance pursuant to
20 subsection d. of this section annually; provided, however, that the
21 need for **[such]** the additional funds is established by the
22 association and is directly related to the performance of **[said]** the
23 association's duties. Whenever the total annual county or municipal
24 contribution to an association exceeds **[\$70,000]** the additional
25 amount determined by resolution or ordinance of subsection d. of
26 this section, the chief financial officer of the county or municipality
27 shall receive an audit performed by a certified public accountant or
28 a registered municipal accountant of each association's financial
29 records for the current year **[which]** that shall certify to the
30 governing body of the county or municipality that **[such]** the
31 records are being maintained in accordance with sound accounting
32 principles.

33 b. Any county or municipality may appropriate **[such]**
34 additional sums as it may deem necessary for the purchase of first
35 aid, ambulance, rescue or other emergency vehicles, equipment,
36 supplies, and materials for use by these associations, the title to
37 which shall remain with the county or municipality, provided that
38 the funds are controlled and disbursed by the county or
39 municipality.

40 c. In the case of a joint purchase made by the governing bodies
41 of two or more local units pursuant to the provisions of the
42 "Consolidated Municipal Services Act," P.L.1952, c.72 (C.40:48B-
43 1 et seq.), the title to the purchase shall be held by the joint meeting
44 formed by the contracting governing bodies.

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 d. A county or municipality may enact a resolution or
2 ordinance to determine amounts necessary to appropriately fund
3 duly incorporated first aid and emergency or volunteer ambulance or
4 rescue squads of the county, or any municipality therein, which
5 shall include, but not be limited to, consideration of the following
6 criteria to meet the needs of residents and associations:

7 (1) a commitment to enter into a shared services agreement with
8 another local unit or units pursuant to the "Uniform Shared Services
9 and Consolidation Act," P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-1 through
10 C.40A:65-35) for the purpose of sharing costs associated with the
11 provision of emergency services;

12 (2) contracting directly with first aid and emergency or
13 volunteer ambulance or rescue squad associations for the costs and
14 provision of emergency services;

15 (3) establishing municipal or county grant programs to fund first
16 aid and emergency or volunteer ambulance or rescue squad
17 associations;

18 (4) a lease program where the county or municipality purchases
19 and retains ownership of emergency service vehicles and equipment
20 for use by a first aid and emergency or volunteer ambulance or
21 rescue squad association;

22 (5) determining capital assistance to aid in the transfer of
23 ownership of emergency service vehicles and equipment to an
24 association;

25 (6) a funding cap and a method to determine additional financial
26 assistance beyond the funding cap, as needed;

27 (7) an audit mechanism that permits the county or municipality
28 to audit the use of funds over a determined threshold to ensure
29 funds are being applied to the provision of emergency services;

30 (8) a provision to permit the municipality or county to recover
31 funds discovered, through audit, to have been misspent by the
32 association; and

33 (9) a regular public hearing schedule concerning the disclosure
34 and use of municipal or county funds, or both, to support any first
35 aid and emergency or volunteer ambulance or rescue squad
36 association.

37 e. The Division of Local Government Services in the
38 Department of Community Affairs, in consultation with the Office
39 of Emergency Medical Services in the Department of Health, shall
40 prepare, adopt, and promulgate a model county resolution and a
41 model municipal ordinance detailing various methods by which a
42 county or municipality may contract with and fund a first aid and
43 emergency or volunteer ambulance or rescue squad association,
44 which may be adopted, in whole or in part, by a county or
45 municipality.

46 (cf: P.L.2022, c.12, s.1)

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48 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

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This bill amends existing law to eliminate the county and municipal funding cap on voluntary contributions to first aid and emergency or volunteer ambulance or rescue squad associations (EMS squad). The bill replaces the Statewide funding cap by allowing a county or municipality to enact a resolution or ordinance, as appropriate, with consideration of certain criteria enumerated in the bill, to contract with and fund EMS squads in a more flexible manner to better suit the needs of individual municipalities and counties. The bill also directs the Division of Local Government Services, in consultation with the Office of Emergency Medical Services, to prepare, adopt, and promulgate a model county resolution and a model municipal ordinance detailing various methods by which a county or municipality may contract with and fund EMS squads, which may be adopted, in whole or in part, by a county or municipality.