

New Jersey State Fire Chief's Association

Legislative Report July 25, 2018

Prepared by: William J. Smith;

(732) 236-3207

wsmithfdr@aol.com

NJ Fire Safety Commission

Contact: Vice Chairman: Kevin Krushinski
(732)406-4376 sayreville121@aol.com

All meetings are scheduled to start at 10AM

Fire Safety Commission Meeting Schedule

1/17/2018	Middlesex County Fire Academy	Minutes posted to nj.gov
3/21/2108	Middlesex County Fire Academy	Postponed due to Winter Weather
5/16/2018	Middlesex County Fire Academy	Minutes are posted to nj.gov
7/18/2018	Surf City Fire Department	Minutes are not posted to nj.gov
9/13/3018	Wildwood Crest Fire Department	
11/15/2018	Atlantic City Convention Center	

Chair Senate Law & Public Safety

Senator Linda R Greenstein

Contact: (609)395-9911

Monday 5/14/2018, No Fire Service topics discussed at this Committee Meeting.

During the Thursday 5/31/2018, Committee Meeting, **S1688** was discussed. This will grant the NJ Motor Vehicle Commission the right to include information in the drivers Manuel explaining the responsibilities of a driver and the Move over Law.

Chair Homeland Security & State Preparedness

Assemblywoman Valerie Vainieri Huttle

Contact: Chief of Staff Alexandra Acosta
(201)541-1118 aacosta@njleg.org
Press Secretary: Jessica Schwartz
(201)541-1118 jschwartz@njleg.org

During the Thursday 5/10/2018 Committee Meeting, **A2987** was discussed. This will increase the membership of the Fire Safety Commission in the DCA. This will amend the current membership from 23 to 27 appointed members.

During the Thursday 6/10/2018 Committee Meeting, [A2426](#) was discussed. The Reliability, Preparedness and Storm Act of 2018. Requires public utilities to file certain information concerning emergency preparedness with PBU and increases certain penalties. Also discussed was [AR52](#), Urges Congress to amend Stafford Act to require FEMA to provide financial assistance to certain personal property damaged by natural disasters. Also discussed was [AR76](#), urges President and Congress to maintain the Northeast Gasoline Supply Reserve to ensue gasoline supply and distribution stability in an emergency.

National Volunteer Fire Council

Contact: Legislative Chair: Dave Finger
(888)275-6832 dfinger@nvfc.org

On Monday 7/23/2018, I received a detailed email from Dave Finger. It documented that the single most item of legislation is that the President signed into law, the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act. The below information was supplied by Dave Finger from the NVFC Website.

On June 21, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved [S.3109](#), a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for FY 2019. [S.3109](#) maintains funding for the Assistance for Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant programs at \$350 million each. It also increases funding for the U.S Fire Administration (USFA) by \$1.1 million.

On June 22, the U.S House of Representatives passed [H.R.931](#), the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act, by unanimous consent. [H.R.931](#), which passed the U.S. Senate in May, directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and maintain a voluntary registry of firefighters to collect relevant history and occupational information that can be linked to available cancer registry data in existing cancer registries. [H.R.931](#) will be presented to President Trump for his signature at which point it would become law.

On June 25, Senator Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND) introduced [S.3124](#), the Help Encourage a Lifetime of Public Service (HELPS) Act, which would waive interest payments on federal student loans for public servants, including volunteer emergency responders. The bill would also make volunteer emergency responders eligible for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program, which forgives federally-financed student loan debt of individuals who have been public servants and made all of their student loan repayments for 10 consecutive years.

Congressional Fire Service Institute

Contact: Director of Government Affairs: Sean Carroll
(202)371-1277 scarroll@cfsi.org

On Wednesday 7/21/2018, I received a detailed email from Sean Carrol. It documented the following.

The following New Jersey members are **NOT** on the Fire Caucus: Senator Cory Booker, Congressman Donald Norcross (NJ-1) and Congressman Thomas McArthur (NJ-3). The Director encouraged the members of the NJ State Fire Chief's Association to reach out to these three members and urge them to join the Congressional Fire Service Caucus.

The following New Jersey members are on the Fire Caucus. Senator Robert Menendez, Congressman Frank LoBiondo (NJ-2), Congressman Christopher Smith (NJ-4), Congressman Josh Gottheimer (NJ-5), Congressman Frank Pallone Jr. (NJ-6), Congressman Leonard Lance (NJ-7), Congressman Albio Sires (NJ-8), Congressman Bill Pascrell Jr. (NJ-9), Congressman Donald Payne Jr. (NJ-10), Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen (NJ-11) and Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ-12).

All other national information is exactly the same as the National Volunteer Fire Council.

New Jersey Legislative Session Updates – NJ State Firemen’s Association / Kenilworth, NJ

As per the report dated June 27, 2018 approximately 205 Bills are being reviewed by this Association. This includes both the New Jersey Assembly and Senate.

Fire & Emergency Services (131)
Fire Districts (33)
Pensions (41)

As per the report dated July 12, 2018, there are still multiple of Bills being reviewed by this Association.

Governor’s Desk

A1627 Provides that PERS and PFRS member who continues to be a volunteer firefighter or emergency service worker after retirement with employer from whom member retires has bona fide severance for compliance with State and federal law.

A1675 Authorizes prescribed burning in certain circumstances.

S5 Transfers management of PFRS to Board of Trustees of PFRS (Signed 7/3)

The next Meeting of the Executive Committee of the New Jersey State Firemen’s Associations shall be held on Thursday September 13, 2018 Wildwood Convention Center starting at 9:30AM

The Senate passed the vote on **S716** on Thursday 6/7/2018. This was recorded as 29 – 4. This is the NJ Presumptive Cancer Bill. On Monday 6/11/2018, this was received in the Assembly, referred to the Assembly Labor Committee.

Attached Reports:

New Jersey Legislative Calendar (7/20/2018)
New Jersey Legislative Digest (7/1/2018)
New Jersey Legislative Date of Action Report (7/1/2018)