

New Jersey State Exempt Firemen's Association

Legislative Report January 16, 2021

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NJ Legislature

Senate Committees – 19

Assembly Committees - 27

Chair Senate Law & Public Safety

Senator Linda R Greenstein

Contact: (609)395-9911

The Friday, December 11, 2020 meeting which was held at 11:00AM discussed the following Bills.

- SJR59 First Responders Appreciation Month – designates October of each year

Chair Homeland Security & State Preparedness

Assemblywoman Angela V. McKnight

Contact: (201)360-2502

The Monday, October 19, 2020 meeting which was held at 11:30AM discussed the following Bills.

- A1106 Jr Firefighter Auxiliary members-promulgate reg pertaining to training / duties
- A1173 Residence w/special needs-established central registry for use during emergencies
- A2913 Community Emergency Response Team members-perform traffic duties
- S238 Jr Firefighter Auxiliary members-promulgate reg pertaining to training/duties

National Volunteer Fire Council

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

December 27, 2020 President Trump signed into law H.R.133. This legislation includes FY 2021 funding for the federal government including programs important to the fire and emergency services, various COVID 19 relief measures, and a permanent extension of the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act.

Important Noted Topics

- AFG/SAFER Grant Program Appropriations
- Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (H.R.1241/S.1210)

- United States Fire Administration (USFA) Appropriations
- Fire Police Fairness Act (H.R.2709)
- Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) Appropriations
- National Firefighter Registry Appropriations
- SIREN Act Appropriations
- Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Act (H.R.4036/S.2214)

I attended the October 4, 2020 NJ Chapter NVFC / NJSVFA Meeting. Director George Heflich Sr presented a detailed report from the NVFC. Their minutes will be attached to this report.

Congressional Fire Service Institute

Contact: Director of Government Affairs: Michaela Campbell
(202)371-1277 mcampbell@cfsi.org

Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska to Chair Congressional Fire Service Caucus in the 117th Congress

Congressman Peter King (NY) named CFSI's 2020 Legislator of the Year

On December 27, 2020, the President signed into law Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year (FY) 2021 (H.R.133). The Bill contains the following for emergency services.

- \$720 million for the AFG and SAFER Programs
- Waiver authority was provided for the AFG and SAFER programs
- \$49.3 million for the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA)
- T Band is preserved
- \$37.8 million for the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System
- \$19 million for the Volunteer Fire Assistance program
- The Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act is made permanent
- \$2.5 million for the National Fire Registry
- \$17.1 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund
- \$5.5 million for the SIREN Act grants
- The Portable Fuel Container Safety Act is included in the omnibus
- The Carbon Monoxide Alarms Leading Every Resident Act or CO Alerts Act
- The Safer Occupancy Furniture Flammability Act

In the COVID-19 stimulus portion of the legislation, provision that may be of interest included:

- Up to \$600 stimulus check for qualifying individuals
- Additional small business funding

The Congressional Fire Service Institute has extended the deadline for submitting applications for its national fire service leadership awards to February 1, 2021.

The four awards include:

- CFSI / Motorola Solutions Mason Lankford Fire Service Leadership Award

- CFSI/IFSTA Dr. Anne W Phillips Award for Leadership in Fire Safety Education
- CFSI/Masimo Excellence in Fire Service – Based EMS Award
- CFSI/NFFF Senator Paul S, Sarbanes Fire Service Safety Leadership Award

To date COVID 19 Fire Service Deaths US (140) / New Jersey (22)

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

Contact: Legislative Committee Chairman Brian E. Martone
(201)370-3833 brianm@njsfa.com

As per the report dated January 14, 2021, the total of all tracked bills are 113.

Fire & Emergency Services (76)
Pensions (32)

The Governor has signed 162 bills into law, most having to deal with our State of Emergency and COVID-19.

The total bills introduced are now at 9,315 bills for the new legislative session.

The new bill A5210 concerning the Firemen’s Home was also sent out. There is also a letter attached from the NJSFA opposing this bill.

On January 7, 2021 the Governor signed S.487 “Dominick Marino PFRE Enhanced Benefits for Surviving Spouses Act. Included in the report is the Tracking Alert from the Office of the Governor.

I also attended the November 2020 NJSFA Legislative Committee Zoom Meeting

Attached Reports:

- NJ Legislative A1173
- NJ Legislative A1106
- NJ Legislative A2913
- NJ Legislative S238
- NJ Senate Joint Resolution No. 59
- New Jersey Legislative Calendar (1/14/2021)
- New Jersey Legislative Date of Action Report (1/14/2021)
- NJ State Firemen’s Association Legislative Committee Report (1/14/2021)
- NJ State Firemen’s Association Legislative Committee Report (1/7/2021)
- NJ State Firemen’s Association Bill Opposition Letter A.5210
- NVFC Legislative Report – January 11, 2021