

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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Legislative Committee April 6, 2023

To all members of the Legislative Committee, there were 96 new bills introduced since the last report. The total number of bills is 9,530 for this session. I added two new bills to our tracking lists this week, both bills are related to each other, A-4498 & S-3090, provides retirement allowance after 20 years of service regardless of age for members of PFRS. This bill extends the current burnout bill that was approved in 2021 and is set to expire in May 2023. The total number of our tracked bills is now 160, with 115 bills in Fire & Emergency Services and 45 bills in Pensions. There are currently forty bills sitting on The Governor's Desk and he has signed 186 bills to date.

Just some updates to the bills that were heard last week.

A2385 - Allows person on police officer or firefighter eligible list who is unable to complete requirements for employment due to certain military service to have name placed on subsequent eligible list. 03/30/23 Passed in Assembly 75-0-0.

A4004 - Specifies additional services for victims of sex trafficking and domestic violence; makes \$1,000,000 appropriation. 03/30/23 Passed in Assembly 71-0-2.

A5179 - "Fire Life Safety Damper & Smoke Control System Inspection Verification Act"; Requires routine maintenance & periodic testing of smoke dampers, fire dampers, & smoke control systems in certain buildings by qualified personnel. 03/30/23 Passed in Assembly 74-0-0.

There are no committee meetings on the schedule for next week. Then the rest of the month there are only Senate and Assembly Budget Committee Meetings listed.

I have not set a date for the annual Legislative meeting. I am looking at a weeknight in the middle of May and the meeting will be held virtually via zoom. Once I finalize the date, I will confirm with everyone and set it up.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian E. Martone
Legislative Committee Chairman
First Assistant Secretary
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Bill Number ★ A4498 of 2022-2023 Session

Summary Provides retirement allowance after 20 years of service regardless of age for members of PFRS.

Sponsors DeAngelo (D14) • Murphy (D7) • Atkins (D20) +3

Cosponsors Spearman (D5) • Rooney (R40) • Coughlin (D19)

Subjects Pensions-Police And Firefighters

Related ★ 2022:S3090

Status 03/30/2023 – Substituted by another bill

Scheduled Not Scheduled

Progress 1st House: I C 2R P — 2nd House: C 2R P — G PL

History 09/22/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly State and Local Government Committee
03/20/2023 – Reported out of committee, referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee
03/23/2023 – Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly
03/30/2023 – Substituted by S3090

Meetings 03/16/2023 – ASL: Committee Meeting On 03/20/2023
03/17/2023 – ASL: Committee Meeting On 03/20/2023 (Revised)
03/22/2023 – AAP: Committee Meeting On 03/23/2023 (Revised)
03/24/2023 – Assembly: Board List For 03/30/2023

News None

Bill Text 09/23/2022 – Introduced 9/22/22 (3 pages)
03/21/2023 – Statement ASL 3/20/23 (1 page)
03/24/2023 – Statement AAP 3/23/23 (1 page)

Votes None

Tracking List – Pensions [Edit | Delete]

 Add to another tracking list

Comments Add comment for this bill



Bill Number ★ S3090 of 2022-2023 Session

Summary Provides retirement allowance after 20 years of service regardless of age for members of PFRS.

Sponsors Gopal (D11) • Lagana (D38) • DeAngelo (D14) • Murphy (D7) • Atkins (D20) +6

Cosponsors Stanfield (R8) • Polistina (R2) • Greenstein (D14) • Spearman (D5) • Rooney (R40) • Coughlin (D19)

Subjects Pensions-Police And Firefighters

Related ★ 2022:A4498

Status 03/30/2023 – Passed in both houses

Scheduled Not Scheduled

Progress 1st House: I C 2R P — 2nd House: C 2R P — G PL

History 09/29/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee
 03/16/2023 – Transferred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee
 03/20/2023 – Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate
 03/20/2023 – Emergency resolution 36-0 (Gopal)
 03/20/2023 – Passed in Senate 36-0
 03/20/2023 – Received in Assembly and referred to Assembly State and Local Government Committee
 03/23/2023 – Transferred to Assembly Appropriations Committee
 03/23/2023 – Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly
 03/30/2023 – Substituted for A4498
 03/30/2023 – Passed in Assembly and sent to Governor 72-0-2

Meetings 03/17/2023 – Senate: Board List For 03/20/2023 (Revised)
 03/17/2023 – SBA: Committee Meeting On 03/20/2023
 03/20/2023 – Senate: Board List For 03/20/2023 (Second Revised)
 03/22/2023 – AAP: Committee Meeting On 03/23/2023 (Revised)
 03/24/2023 – Assembly: Board List For 03/30/2023

News None

Bill Text 09/30/2022 – Introduced (3 pages)
 03/21/2023 – Statement SBA 3/20/23 (1 page)
 03/24/2023 – Statement AAP 3/23/23 (1 page)

Votes 03/20/2023 – Senate Emergency Resolution 36-0-0
 03/20/2023 – Senate 3rd Reading/Final Passage 36-0-0
 03/30/2023 – Assembly 3rd Reading/Final Passage 72-0-2

Tracking List – Pensions [Edit | Delete]

Add to another tracking list

‘Burnout bill’ advances, would let public safety workers retire early

JOANNA GAGIS, SENIOR CORRESPONDENT | MARCH 30, 2023 | [MORE ISSUES](#)

Police, firefighters, EMS could retire after 20 years with a reduced pension

Members of the Assembly voted Thursday to allow public safety workers — police, firefighters and EMS — to leave their jobs after 20 years while still collecting some portion of their pension. The “burnout bill,” which was already passed by the Senate, looks poised for Gov. Phil Murphy’s signature.

“The stress levels in this job are extraordinarily high. Suicides are a very real problem in law enforcement, we’re epidemic levels worth of suicides. So the idea behind this concept is, if you’re so burned out that the only reason you’re staying on the job is to get to your 25th year to collect a full pension, you should be provided with a window to respect the 20 years you put into a difficult profession,” said Rob Nixon, the director of government affairs at the New Jersey State Policemen’s Benevolent Association.

A burnout bill is nothing new in Trenton. In fact, the provision was first put in place by Gov. Christine Todd Whitman in 2000. It was done away with under former Gov. Chris Christie's administration, then restored by Murphy in 2021, but in a temporary measure that is set to sunset in May.

The bill voted on in the Assembly Thursday has a lot of supporters but there's concern, especially from the New Jersey Association of Counties, about a burden on taxpayers.

"Now you have someone who you have to pay out of the pension system, who's no longer paying into the pension system, and that increases the unfunded accrued liability of the pension system," said John Donnadio, executive director of the association.

BURNOUT BILL

EMS

FIREFIGHTERS

LEGISLATURE

PENSION

POLICE

PUBLIC SAFETY WORKERS