

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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Legislative Committee December 21, 2023

To all members of the Legislative Committee, I want to first wish everyone a Happy Holidays and remind everyone that the state office will be closed starting tomorrow and will re-open on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. If anyone should need anything during this time, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

There have been no new bills introduced since the last report. The total number of bills is at 10,544 for this session. The total number of our tracked bills is at 192, with 141 bills in Fire & Emergency Services and 51 bills in Pensions. There are currently twenty-one bills sitting on The Governor's Desk and he has signed 351 bills to date. We are currently at six of our tracked bills that have been signed into law for this Legislative Session.

On Monday, December 18, 2023, President Ordway, Vice President Hankins, and I attended the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee Meeting and gave testimony in support for the three Income Tax Deduction bills, S-1697 & A-757 are companion bills and S-3479 is similar. The bills were merged as a committee substitute. They were approved by committee and sent to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. There is a Senate Budget and Appropriations committee meeting, and the two EMS Training Fund Bills are on the list to be heard. I sent a slip to show support for these bills for that meeting. There are also voting sessions for both the Assembly and Senate today and several of our bills are on the list to be voted on for those sessions (see attached). Next week there are no meetings due to the holiday, but they will resume on Thursday, January 4, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,



Brian E. Martone
Legislative Committee Chairman
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★ **Tracking Alert** — This document references bills you are tracking: **S1697**

News From The Senate Democrats

GOPAL BILL ALLOWING VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY RESPONDERS TO CLAIM STATE TAX EXEMPTION CLEARS COMMITTEE

TRENTON – As part of ongoing efforts to shore up the ranks of New Jersey's volunteer firefighter, first aid and rescue squad crews, and give those volunteers some level of compensation for the hard work they do, the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee advanced bipartisan legislation sponsored by Senator Vin Gopal, Senator Christopher Connors, and Senator Kristin Corrado, to allow these first responders to take a \$2,000 exemption as a deduction from their New Jersey State income tax.

"Emergency services volunteers are an invaluable resource in towns across New Jersey, yet we need more of them," said Senator Gopal (D-Monmouth). "By offering this tax exemption, we hope to provide an incentive for more residents to become active volunteers, and also encourage those already volunteering to continue to do so."

Under the bill, to be eligible, first aid and rescue squad members must have performed 10 percent of rescue duty, and by January 1st of the tax year either have passed a training program approved by the New Jersey First Aid Council or qualified as an emergency medical technician according to the standards established by the Department of Health.

Regarding firefighters, to be eligible they must have performed 60 percent of fire duty, and by January 1st of the tax year attained either the rank of Firefighter I Certified according to the standards established by the International Fire Service Training Association or equivalent standards approved by the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs.

The bill, **S1697**, was released from committee on a vote of 4-0.



Thursday, December 21, 2023

Assembly, 10:00a Caucus; 11:00a Voting Session. (Revised 12/20/2023)

- ★ **A5567 [bill added]** Extends period of usefulness of fire engines for bonding purposes from 10 to 20 years; eliminates exclusion of passenger cars and station wagons.

Tracking: *Fire & Emergency Services* — Support

Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, 10:00a, 1st Floor, Committee Room 4, Annex.

- ★ **A3772** Revises certain requirements concerning eligibility for reimbursement from "Emergency Medical Technician Training Fund."

Tracking: *Fire & Emergency Services*

- ★ **S2223** Revises certain requirements concerning eligibility for reimbursement from "Emergency Medical Technician Training Fund."

Tracking: *Fire & Emergency Services*

Senate, 12:00p Party Conferences; 1:00p Party Caucus; 2:00p Voting Session.

- ★ **A4125** Prohibits sale, manufacture, distribution, and use of firefighting foam containing intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances; requires DEP to establish collection and disposal program; appropriates \$250,000.

Tracking: *Fire & Emergency Services* — Support

- ★ **A4913** Requires carriers to offer health care providers more than one method of payment for reimbursement.

Tracking: *Firemen's Home*

- ★ **S723** Creates "New Jersey Domestic Workers' Bill of Rights Act."

Tracking: *Firemen's Home*

- ★ **S2712** Prohibits sale, manufacture, distribution, and use of firefighting foam containing intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances; requires DEP to establish collection and disposal program; appropriates \$250,000.

Tracking: *Fire & Emergency Services* — Support

New Jersey Law Revision Commission, 4:30p, 153 Halsey Street, 7th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102.

Consideration of memorandum and reports.