

# ***NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION***

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## **Legislative Committee** **March 6, 2025**

To all members of the Legislative Committee, the total number of bills introduced is 10,358 already for this session. There were 69 new bills added since the last report. I added four new bills to our tracking list, Fire & Emergency Services, (see attached). The total number of our tracked bills is now at 307, with 176 bills in Fire & Emergency Services, 73 bills in Firemen's Home, and 58 bills in Pensions. There are currently twenty-four bills sitting on The Governor's Desk waiting to be signed. The Governor signed one hundred thirty-nine bills into law to date. One of our tracked bills was recently signed by the Governor, S-3735, which extends certain provisions of P.L.2022, c.9 (this is the 67 years of age as a Police or Fire Chief for retirement).

Vice President Hankins and I attended the Senate Labor Committee Meeting on Monday, March 3, 2025, to testify in favor of S-788, which exempts certain volunteer first responders from coverage under "unemployment compensation law"; excludes from gross income amounts received for certain volunteer emergency services. The bill was passed by the committee and referred to the Seante Budget and Appropriations Committee.

One of our tracked bills is listed to be heard on Monday, March 10, 2025, in the Assembly Environment, Natural Resources and Solid Waste Committee, A-5195, which requires manufacturer of certain firefighting equipment containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances to provide written notice to purchaser; prohibits sale, manufacture, and distribution of certain firefighting equipment containing intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

Respectfully Submitted,



**Brian E. Martone**  
**Legislative Committee Chairman**  
**First Assistant Secretary**  
**New Jersey State Firemen's Association**  
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**Bill Number** ★ **A5381 of 2024-2025 Session**

**Summary** Provides for filing extension and medical documentation requirement for certain members of PERS, PFRS, and SPRS to receive accidental disability retirement allowance for participation in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations.

**Sponsors** Kennedy (D22)

**Subjects** Pensions-Police And Firefighters • Pensions-Public Employees • State Government

**Status** 02/27/2025 - Proposed for introduction

**Scheduled** Not Scheduled

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

**History** None

**Meetings** None

**News** None

**Bill Text** None

**Votes** None

**Tracking** [List - Fire & Emergency Services](#) [ [Edit](#) | [Delete](#) ]

[Add to another tracking list](#)

**Comments** [Add comment for this bill](#)



Total Bills: 1 ★ = Tracked bill ☆ = Untracked bill

★	Bill	Introduced	Last Action	Progress	Status	Scheduled
★	S4181	03/03/2025	03/03/2025	House1: Comm	SCU	
Wimberly (D35) — Concerns availability of fire escape mechanisms in residential dwellings; provides penalty for violation.						

## Related Bill Finder (2024-2025)

### Updated Tracking Lists:

#### 2024-2025 tracking list: Fire & Emergency Services

Tracked	Added	Bill Description
S4132	A5402	Impersonating first responder-create offense
S4181	A423	Fire escape mechanisms-concerns availability in resid dwelling; provides penalty
S4181	A5184	Fire escape mechanisms-concerns availability in resid dwelling; provides penalty

### Updated Bill Comments:

No new bill comments were added.



**Bill Number** ★ **S3735 Sca (1R) of 2024-2025 Session**

**Summary** Extends certain provisions of P.L.2022, c.9.

**Sponsors** Holzapfel (R10) • Scutari (D22) • Stanley (D18) • Karabinchak (D18) +4

**Cosponsors** Amato (R9) • Singer (R30) • Atkins (D20) • Egan (D17)

**Subjects** Pensions-Police And Firefighters

**Related** ★ 2024:A4904

**Status** 02/28/2025 – **Bill or Resolution Signed by the Governor**

**Scheduled** Not Scheduled

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

**History** 10/07/2024 – Introduced and referred to Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee  
02/13/2025 – Transferred to Senate Judiciary Committee  
02/20/2025 – Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Senate  
02/25/2025 – Passed in Senate 33-2  
02/25/2025 – Received in Assembly w/o committee reference, 2nd reading in Assembly  
02/27/2025 – Substituted for A4904 (1R)  
02/27/2025 – Passed in Assembly and sent to Governor 64-8-0  
02/28/2025 – Signed by the Governor P.L.2025, c.21

**Meetings** 02/13/2025 – **SJU: Committee Meeting On 02/20/2025**  
02/18/2025 – **SJU: Committee Meeting On 02/20/2025 (Revised)**  
02/21/2025 – **Senate: Board List For 02/25/2025**  
02/24/2025 – **Senate: Board List For 02/25/2025 (Revised)**  
02/25/2025 – **Assembly: Board List For 02/27/2025 (Revised)**

**News** 02/28/2025 – **Governor: Acting Governor Way Takes Action On Legislation**

**Bill Text** 10/08/2024 – **Introduced** (3 pages)  
02/21/2025 – **Reprint (1R) SJU 2/20/25 1R** (3 pages)  
02/21/2025 – **Statement SJU 2/20/25** (2 pages)

**Votes** 02/25/2025 – **Senate 3rd Reading/Final Passage 33-2-0**  
02/27/2025 – **Assembly 3rd Reading/Final Passage 64-8-0**

**Tracking** **List – Pensions** [ [Edit](#) | [Delete](#) ]

**Add to another tracking list**

**Comments**  **Add comment for this bill**



**Bill Number** ★ **S788 of 2024-2025 Session**

**Summary** Exempts certain volunteer first responders from coverage under "unemployment compensation law"; excludes from gross income amounts received for certain volunteer emergency services.

**Sponsors** Johnson (D37) • Amato (R9) +2

**Cosponsors** Moriarty (D4) • Polistina (R2)

**Subjects** Labor-Unemployment Compensation • Public Safety-Emergency Management

**Related** ★ 2024:A1429 • ★ 2022:A5860 • ★ 2022:S4185

**Status** 03/03/2025 – Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee

**Scheduled** Not Scheduled

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

**History** 01/09/2024 – Introduced and referred to Senate Labor Committee  
03/03/2025 – Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Senate  
03/03/2025 – Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee

**Meetings** 02/24/2025 – SLA: Committee Meeting On 03/03/2025

**News** 03/03/2025 – Legislation To Support Volunteer First Responders Advances

**Bill Text** 01/09/2024 – Introduced (1 page)  
03/04/2025 – Statement SLA 3/3/25 (2 pages)  
03/04/2025 – Technical Review of Prefiled Bill SLA 3/3/25 TR (20 pages)

**Votes** None

**Tracking** List – Fire & Emergency Services [ Edit | Delete ]  
Position – Support

Add to another tracking list

**Comments** Add comment for this bill



★ **Tracking Alert** — This document references bills you are tracking: **S788, S2887**

News From The Senate Democrats

## **JOHNSON-GREENSTEIN LEGISLATION TO SUPPORT VOLUNTEER FIRST RESPONDERS AND STRENGTHEN WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROTECTIONS ADVANCES**

TRENTON – The Senate Labor Committee has advanced two key pieces of legislation aimed at providing financial relief to volunteer first responders and ensuring fair workers' compensation benefits for volunteers and other workers.

The first bill, **S788**, sponsored by Senator Gordon Johnson (D-Bergen), exempts stipends received by volunteer first responders from payroll taxes, including unemployment insurance (UI), temporary disability insurance (TDI), and family leave insurance (FLI). It also ensures that these stipends are excluded from a taxpayer's gross income. The legislation is designed to incentivize more individuals to serve as volunteer firefighters and emergency responders by increasing the value of their stipends.

"Volunteer first responders are the backbone of public safety in many of our communities, yet recruitment and retention have become increasingly difficult. These individuals dedicate their time, energy, and often put themselves in harm's way to protect others, all without expecting financial compensation," said Senator Johnson. "By exempting the stipends they receive from taxation, we are taking a meaningful step toward recognizing their service and alleviating the financial burdens that may discourage participation."

The second bill, **S2887**, sponsored by Senator Linda Greenstein (D-Mercer/Middlesex), clarifies that volunteer firefighters and other eligible workers are entitled to the maximum workers' compensation benefits, even if they do not have outside employment. The bill codifies the 2019 New Jersey Supreme Court decision in *Kocanowski v. Township of Bridgewater*, which affirmed that volunteer firefighters injured in the line of duty should receive full compensation benefits regardless of their employment status.

"Volunteer firefighters and first responders risk their lives to serve their neighbors, and it is crucial that they receive the full protections and benefits they deserve," said Senator Greenstein. "The reality is that many of these individuals serve in a volunteer capacity while balancing other responsibilities, and some may not have outside employment at the time of an injury. This legislation guarantees that all eligible volunteers are entitled to the maximum workers' compensation benefits, removing any ambiguity in the law and ensuring fair treatment."

Both bills advanced in a 5-0 vote.



**Monday, March 10, 2025**

*Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee, Not Meeting.*

**Assembly Budget Committee, Not Meeting.**

*Assembly Labor Committee, Not Meeting.*

*Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, Not Meeting.*

*Assembly Science, Innovation and Technology Committee, Not Meeting.*

**Assembly State and Local Government Committee, Not Meeting.**

*Assembly Tourism, Gaming and the Arts Committee, Not Meeting.*

**Assembly, 10:00a Group C Committees; 1:00p Quorum; 2:00p Group D Committees.**

**Assembly Children, Families and Food Security Committee, 10:00a, 3rd Floor, Committee Room 9, Annex.**

**Assembly Education Committee, 10:00a, 4th Floor, Committee Room 16, Annex.**

The committee will receive testimony from invited guests on potential partnerships between non-profit entities and public schools regarding water safety instruction.

**Assembly Judiciary Committee, 10:00a, 4th Floor, Committee Room 12, Annex.**

**Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee, 10:00a, 4th Floor, Committee Room 11, Annex.**

**Assembly Environment, Natural Resources and Solid Waste Committee, 1:00p, 3rd Floor, Committee Room 9, Annex.**

For discussion only: A-4679

- ★ **A5195** Requires manufacturer of certain firefighting equipment containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances to provide written notice to purchaser; prohibits sale, manufacture, and distribution of certain firefighting equipment containing intentional

**Tracking:** *Fire & Emergency Services*

**Senate Higher Education Committee, 1:00p, 1st Floor, Committee Room 4, Annex.**

The Senate Higher Education Committee and the Assembly Higher Education Committee will hold a joint meeting to receive testimony from invited guests regarding the use of funding received from the United States Department of Education for higher education purposes.