

NEW JERSEY STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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Legislative Committee October 9, 2025

To all members of the Legislative Committee, the total number of our tracked bills stayed the same at 335, with 198 bills in Fire & Emergency Services, 76 bills in Firemen's Home, and 61 bills in Pensions. There are currently Twenty-Six bills sitting on the Governor's Desk waiting to be signed. One of our tracked bills A5792, was signed into Law by the Governor on 8/21/2025 is attached.

There is nothing on the schedule for the rest of the month or the beginning of next month. I will keep everyone posted on their schedule if any changes are made.

Respectfully Submitted,

Richard K. Dreby

**Richard K. Dreby
Legislative Committee Chairman
1st Assistant Secretary
New Jersey State Firemen's Association**

This document outlines legislation in New Jersey aimed at providing mental health support for first responders following critical incidents.

Definitions and Key Terms

- **Critical Incident:** Events such as gunfire, serious injury or death of minors, terrorist acts, and violent crimes against minors that first responders may encounter.
- **First Responder:** Includes 9-1-1 dispatchers, law enforcement officers, paid firefighters, and emergency medical personnel dispatched to emergencies.
- **Mental Health Professional:** Licensed individuals specializing in mental health issues related to first responders, particularly after critical incidents.
- **Peer Support Team:** Trained law enforcement officers providing emotional support to first responders.
- **Resiliency Program Officer:** A designated officer responsible for implementing the New Jersey Resiliency Program for Law Enforcement.

Employer Responsibilities

- Employers must provide up to 12 hours of paid confidential counseling with a mental health professional for first responders involved in critical incidents, separate from existing health benefits.
- If additional counseling is deemed necessary, employers are required to cover up to 24 extra hours.
- Counseling must be completed within one year of the first visit, and no paid leave will be deducted for sessions during work hours.

Confidentiality Provisions

- Communications between law enforcement officers and resiliency program officers or peer support team members are confidential, with exceptions for risks of harm or criminal activity.

This act is effective immediately as of August 21, 2025.