

ASSEMBLY, No. 97

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2017

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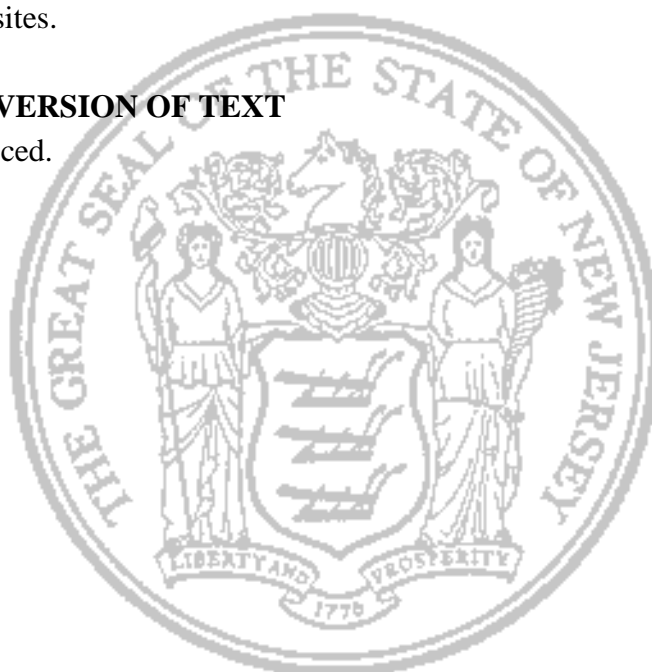
District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Amends State construction code to increase fire safety at certain construction sites.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/8/2017)

1 AN ACT concerning fire safety at certain construction sites and
2 supplementing P.L.1975, c.217 (C.52:27D-119 et seq.).

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. The adoption of the International Building Code, 2015, by
8 the Commissioner of Community Affairs is modified as follows:

9 a. In addition to any fire safety requirements applicable during
10 construction of a Residential Group R-1 or R-2 building or
11 structure, there shall be established a fire watch to be active at all
12 times when construction personnel are not engaging in construction
13 activity on the premises.

14 b. The requirement for the fire watch shall begin when the
15 framework of the structure begins to be constructed. The
16 requirement shall cease upon the installation of an operational
17 automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13 or NFPA
18 13R, as appropriate, and the issuance of a certificate of occupancy
19 for the structure.

20 c. As used in this section, "fire watch" means at least one
21 dedicated person with expertise in fire safety, whose responsibilities
22 are limited to monitoring a construction site for fire related dangers
23 while there is no construction activity taking place on the site.

24

25 2. The Commissioner of Community Affairs shall take
26 whatever administrative actions as are necessary to correct code
27 adoptions to conform them with section 1 of
28 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
29 Whenever the commissioner adopts a code or subcode pursuant to
30 section 5 of P.L.1975, c.217 (C.52:27D-123), the commissioner
31 shall modify the adoption to conform it with the provisions of
32 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
33 this bill).

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35 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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40 This bill would require a fire watch be established at any
41 construction site for the development of a Residential Group R-1 or
42 R-2 structure The fire watch would be active at all times when
43 construction personnel are not engaging in construction activity on
44 the premises.

45 The requirement for the fire watch would begin when the
46 framework of the structure begins to be constructed. The
47 requirement would expire upon the installation of an operational
48 automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13 or NFPA

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1 13R, as appropriate, and the issuance of a certificate of occupancy
2 for the structure.

3 Under the bill, “fire watch” means at least one dedicated person
4 with expertise in fire safety whose responsibilities are limited to
5 monitoring a construction site for fire related dangers while there is
6 no construction activity taking place on the site.