

**ASSEMBLY, No. 307**

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

---

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JOE DANIELSEN**

**District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designated Kevin Apuzzio's Law; allows municipalities to provide increased survivor pensions for certain volunteer emergency workers and requires municipalities to provide health and life insurance coverage to volunteer firefighters.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** increasing certain volunteer emergency workers' survivor  
 2 pensions, providing health and life insurance to volunteer  
 3 firefighters, designated as Kevin Apuzzio's Law, and amending  
 4 N.J.S.40A:10-29, N.J.S.40A:10-30, P.L.1957, c.168, and  
 5 P.L.1983, c.383.

6  
 7 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
 8 *of New Jersey:*

9  
 10 1. N.J.S.40A:10-29 is amended to read as follows:  
 11 40A:10-29. In addition to the insurance required under chapter  
 12 15 of Title 34 of the Revised Statutes, a municipality maintaining a  
 13 volunteer fire department, or in which there are one or more  
 14 incorporated volunteer fire companies whose members have or shall  
 15 form themselves into a group or groups for the purpose of obtaining  
 16 a group life insurance plan with any insurance company authorized  
 17 to do business in New Jersey, **may** shall appropriate moneys to  
 18 defray the cost of such insurance and pay the premiums therefor.

19 A municipality shall **not** undertake the cost **nor** and pay the  
 20 premiums on **any** a policy of group life insurance **where the** to  
 21 benefit all its volunteer firefighters. The amount payable upon the  
 22 death of each **assured exceeds the amount of \$25,000** insured  
 23 volunteer firefighter shall be \$250,000.

24 A municipality shall also undertake the reasonable costs for the  
 25 burial and funeral costs upon the death of an insured volunteer  
 26 firefighter.

27 (cf: P.L.2007, c.220, s.2)

28  
 29 2. N.J.S.40A:10-30 is amended to read as follows:  
 30 40A:10-30. In addition to the insurance required pursuant to the  
 31 provisions of chapter 15 of Title 34 of the Revised Statutes and the  
 32 coverage provided in N.J.S.40A:10-29, a municipality maintaining  
 33 a volunteer fire department or in which there are one or more  
 34 incorporated volunteer fire companies **may** shall:

35 a. Effect and maintain group health, accident and accidental  
 36 death and dismemberment, hospitalization, medical, surgical, major  
 37 medical expenses**,** or health and accident**]** insurance with any  
 38 insurance company authorized to do business in New Jersey, or  
 39 with a nonprofit hospital service or medical service corporation  
 40 with respect to the benefits which they are authorized to provide**,**  
 41 which is determined to be necessary or desirable for the protection,  
 42 safety and welfare of the members of the volunteer fire department  
 43 or the members of the incorporated volunteer fire companies**]; and**

44 b. Effect and maintain a contract or contracts to provide drug  
 45 prescription or other health care benefits **which is determined to be**

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **thus** in the above bill is  
 not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 necessary or desirable】 for the protection, safety and welfare of the  
2 members of the volunteer fire department or members of an  
3 incorporated volunteer fire company【;】.

4 c. 【In the discretion of the governing body of the municipality,  
5 appropriate and pay all or any portion of the cost of such insurance  
6 or contract or both.】 (Deleted by amendment, P.L. \_\_\_\_\_, c. \_\_\_\_\_)  
7 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).  
8 (cf: N.J.S.40A:10-30)  
9

10 3. Section 2 of P.L.1957, c.168 (C.43:12-28.2) is amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 2. A survivor's pension granted under section 1 of P.L.1957,  
13 c.168 (C.43:12-28.1) shall be for the sum of (a) 【\$15,000】 \$30,000  
14 annually and shall be paid to the widow, during her widowhood, or  
15 to the child or children of such firefighter, emergency medical  
16 technician, or first aid or rescue squad worker, if he leaves no  
17 surviving widow, or to such child or children after the death of such  
18 widow, (b) 【\$10,000】 \$20,000 annually and shall be paid to the  
19 child or children of such firefighter, emergency medical technician,  
20 or first aid or rescue squad worker, if the surviving widow  
21 remarries, or (c) 【\$5,000】 \$10,000 annually and shall be paid to the  
22 parent or parents of such firefighter, emergency medical technician,  
23 or first aid or rescue squad worker, if he leaves no surviving widow  
24 or child. As used in this section, the terms "widow" and  
25 "widowhood" shall also include "widower" and "widowerhood"  
26 respectively.  
27 (cf: P.L.2002, c.134, s.2)  
28

29 4. Section 12 of P.L.1983, c.383 (C.52:27D-203) is amended to  
30 read as follows:

31 12. a. Each enforcing agency in this State shall enforce this act  
32 in all buildings, structures and premises within its jurisdiction,  
33 except owner-occupied buildings used exclusively for dwelling  
34 purposes and containing fewer than three dwelling units, subject to  
35 the control and supervision of the commissioner and in accordance  
36 with regulations promulgated by the commissioner. The  
37 commissioner shall consult with and advise all local enforcement  
38 agencies enforcing the provision of this act, and each local  
39 enforcement agency shall provide the commissioner with reports,  
40 data and information required by the commissioner. To cover the  
41 cost to the municipality of conducting inspections under this act, the  
42 municipality may, by ordinance, establish fees, which shall be paid  
43 into the treasury of the municipality to which the local enforcing  
44 agency is responsible, and which shall be appropriated by the  
45 municipality to the local enforcing agency to pay the cost of  
46 enforcing this act.



1 beneficiaries of volunteer firefighters, first aid workers, rescue  
2 squad workers, and emergency medical technicians, who die as the  
3 result of injuries sustained while performing their duties.  
4 This bill would also require municipalities served by volunteer  
5 fire companies to provide volunteer firefighters with health  
6 insurance, carry a \$250,000 life insurance policy for each volunteer  
7 firefighter, and pay the reasonable expenses for the burial or funeral  
8 of an insured firefighter. Municipalities may raise funds to provide  
9 these benefits to volunteer firefighters by establishing a \$1  
10 surcharge for each fire code inspection in the municipality.