

ASSEMBLY, No. 859

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTI

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires Division of Fire Safety to annually distribute smoke alarms; appropriates \$1 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning smoke alarms, supplementing Title 52 of the
2 Revised Statutes, and making an appropriation.

3

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

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7 1. a. There is established in the Division of Fire Safety in the
8 Department of Community Affairs a program to annually distribute
9 new smoke-sensitive alarm devices, at no charge, to seniors,
10 persons with a disability, and low-income persons.

11 b. (1) In the first year next following the effective date of
12 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
13 the division shall distribute 50,000 smoke-sensitive alarm devices
14 through the program established by subsection a. of this section.

15 (2) In each subsequent year during the 10-year period next
16 following the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
17 before the Legislature as this bill), the number of smoke-sensitive
18 alarm devices distributed through the program shall increase by
19 10,000 over the number distributed in the prior year. For each year
20 after the 10-year period, the number of smoke-sensitive alarm
21 devices distributed through the program shall remain the same as
22 the last year of that period.

23 c. The division may accept donations of suitable new smoke-
24 sensitive alarm devices, and funds to purchase these devices, for
25 distribution through the program.

26 d. As used in this section:

27 "Low-income person" means an individual or family whose gross
28 annual income is at or below the official poverty line as determined
29 by the Director of the federal Office of Management and Budget.

30 "Person with a disability" means a person having an impairment
31 which is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration
32 and substantially impedes the person's ability to live independently
33 unless the person receives supportive services.

34 "Senior" means any person 62 years of age or older.

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36 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Division
37 of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs \$1 million
38 to fund the program established by section 1 of this act.

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40 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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45 This bill would establish a program in the Division of Fire Safety
46 in the Department of Community Affairs to annually distribute
47 smoke alarms, at no charge, to seniors, persons with a disability,
48 and low-income persons. This program would help protect the

1 State's most vulnerable residents from fire-related injuries and
2 deaths.

3 In the first year of the program, 50,000 smoke alarms would be
4 distributed. In each subsequent year during the 10-year period
5 following the bill's effective date, the number of smoke alarms
6 distributed would increase to 10,000 over the number distributed in
7 the prior year. For each year after the 10-year period, the number
8 of smoke alarms distributed would remain the same as the last year
9 of that period. The division would be permitted to accept donations
10 to supply smoke alarms for distribution through the program.

11 The bill appropriates \$1 million from the General Fund to
12 support the smoke alarm distribution program.