

ASSEMBLY, No. 5011

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Carter, Vainieri Huttie, Jasey and Assemblyman Benson

SYNOPSIS

Provides for accidental death benefit if death of TPAF member is caused by COVID-19.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/20/2021)

1 **AN ACT** concerning an accidental death benefit in the Teachers'
2 Pension and Annuity Fund and supplementing chapter 66 of Title
3 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. For purposes of paragraph (1) of subsection a. of N.J.S.18A:66-
9 46, a member whose death is attributable to COVID-19,
10 complications therefrom, or the aggravation or acceleration of a
11 preexisting condition caused thereby shall be deemed to have
12 occurred as the result of an accident met in the actual performance of
13 duty at some definite time and place if:

14 the member contracted COVID-19 during the public health
15 emergency in the State declared by the Governor in Executive Order
16 No. 103 of 2020 and as extended;

17 the member dies as a result of COVID-19; and

18 the member's regular or assigned duties required the member to
19 interact, and the member so interacted, with the public, other
20 employees, students, or parents, or to directly supervise other
21 personnel so interacting with the public, other employees, students,
22 or parents, on any date during the public health emergency in the
23 State declared by the Governor in Executive Order No. 103 of 2020
24 and as extended within 14 calendar days prior to the appearance of
25 symptoms consistent with COVID-19 that shall have been confirmed
26 in writing by a licensed health care provider.

27 The filing of an accident report with the Teachers' Pension and
28 Annuity Fund shall not be required for an accidental death benefit
29 allowed pursuant to this section.

30 If a member dies during the public health emergency in the State
31 declared by the Governor in Executive Order No. 103 of 2020 and as
32 extended and a beneficiary has received approvals pursuant to a
33 provision other than this section or N.J.S.18A:66-46 prior to the
34 effective date of this act, P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature
35 as this bill), the beneficiary may apply for a benefit pursuant to this
36 section and, if approved, the prior approvals shall be rescinded and
37 the benefit pursuant to approval under this section shall be made
38 retroactive to the date of the rescinded initial approvals.

39 A person approved pursuant to this section to receive a benefit
40 under N.J.S.18A:66-46 shall be entitled to receive health care
41 benefits coverage for that person and any dependents through the
42 School Employees' Health Benefits Program and the full cost of the
43 premium or periodic charges for such coverage shall be paid by the
44 State for five years following the date of enrollment in the program.

45 This section shall not apply to any member who retired and
46 subsequently returned to employment pursuant to a provision of law,
47 or pursuant to Executive Order No. 115 of 2020, permitting a retired
48 member to return to employment without reenrollment.

