

SENATE, No. 720

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator DAWN MARIE ADDIEGO

District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DCA to establish training course concerning certain fire code enforcement activities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the training of fire officials and fire inspectors,
2 and supplementing P.L.1983, c.383 (C.52:27D-192 et seq.).

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. The Department of Community Affairs, in consultation with
8 the Department of Agriculture, shall develop a training course to
9 inform fire officials and fire inspectors of the requirements concerning
10 the enforcement of the "Uniform Fire Safety Act," P.L.1983, c.383
11 (C.52:27D-192 et seq.) with respect to commercial farm buildings and
12 seasonal agricultural labor housing. The training course shall be based
13 on the separate fire safety code criteria promulgated pursuant to
14 section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
15 Senate Bill No. 3951 of 2019), and the training course shall be
16 developed within 60 days of the promulgation of the regulations.

17 b. The division shall provide the training course, free of charge, to
18 the fire officials and fire inspectors of each enforcing agency. Each
19 fire official and fire inspector shall satisfactorily complete the training
20 course no later than one year after the training course is developed
21 pursuant to subsection a. of this section, except that any fire official or
22 fire inspector who is certified by the division following the
23 incorporation of applicable education requirements pursuant to
24 subsection c. of this section shall not be required to complete the
25 training course. The division shall continue to provide the training
26 course until each fire official or fire inspector, who has not completed
27 a certification program under subsection c. of this section, has
28 completed the training course.

29 c. Following the promulgation of the separate fire safety code
30 criteria pursuant to section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
31 the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 3951 of 2019), the division shall
32 incorporate educational requirements concerning the regulation of
33 commercial farm buildings and seasonal agricultural labor housing
34 under the "Uniform Fire Safety Act," P.L.1983, c.383 (C.52:27D-192
35 et seq.) into the certification program for fire officials and fire
36 inspectors.

37 d. The provisions of this section shall apply to fire officials and
38 fire inspectors that are appointed or employed to enforce the Uniform
39 Fire Code in jurisdictions containing property subject to taxation under
40 the "Farmland Assessment Act of 1964," P.L.1964, c.48 (C.54:4-23.1
41 et seq.) as determined by the Director of the Division of Taxation in
42 the Department of the Treasury.

43 e. As used in this section:

44 "Division" means the Division of Fire Safety in the Department of
45 Community Affairs.

46 "Fire inspector" means a person working under the direction of the
47 fire official who is certified by the Commission of Community Affairs

1 and appointed or designated to enforce the Uniform Fire Code by the
2 appointing authority of a local enforcing agency.

3 “Fire official” means a person certified by the Commissioner of
4 Community Affairs and appointed or designated to direct the
5 enforcement of the Uniform Fire Code.

6 “Uniform Fire Code” means the code promulgated pursuant to
7 section 7 of P.L.1983, c.383 (C.52:27D-198).

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9 2. This act shall take effect upon the enactment of P.L. , c.
10 (C.) (pending before the Legislature as Senate Bill No. 3951 of
11 2019).

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14 STATEMENT

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16 This bill requires the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), in
17 consultation with the Department of Agriculture (NJDA), to establish a
18 training course to inform fire officials and fire inspectors of the
19 requirements concerning the enforcement of the “Uniform Fire Safety
20 Act,” P.L.1983, c.383 (C.52:27D-192 et seq.) with respect to
21 commercial farm buildings and seasonal agricultural labor housing.

22 Specifically, the training course is to be based on the separate fire
23 safety code criteria for commercial farm buildings and seasonal
24 agricultural labor housing, which are jointly promulgated by the DCA
25 and NJDA pursuant to a companion bill. Under the bill each fire
26 official and fire inspector in the State is required to successfully
27 complete the training course within one year of the development of the
28 course.

29 The bill requires the Division of Fire Safety in the DCA to
30 continue to provide the training course, free of charge, until each fire
31 official and fire inspector has successfully completed the course.
32 Additionally, the bill requires the division to incorporate educational
33 requirements concerning the regulation of commercial farm buildings
34 and seasonal agricultural labor housing under the “Uniform Fire Safety
35 Act,” P.L.1983, c.383 (C.52:27D-192 et seq.) into the certification
36 program for fire officials and fire inspectors. Under the bill any fire
37 official or fire inspector who is certified by the division after the
38 incorporation of these educational requirements is not required to
39 complete the training course.

40 The bill applies to fire officials and fire inspectors that are
41 appointed or employed to enforce the Uniform Fire Code in
42 jurisdictions containing property subject to taxation under the
43 “Farmland Assessment Act of 1964” as determined by the Director of
44 the Division of Taxation in the Department of the Treasury.

45 This bill is to take effect upon the enactment of a companion bill.