

SENATE, No. 4001

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 21, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Madden

SYNOPSIS

Removes Fire Museum and Fallen Firefighters Memorial from auspices of DEP and establishes museum as independent organization; makes \$200,000 supplemental appropriation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2021)

1 **AN ACT** concerning firefighters, supplementing Title 28 of the
2 Revised Statutes, repealing P.L.1991, c.215, and making an
3 appropriation.

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

7
8 1. (New section) a. The New Jersey Fire Museum and Fallen
9 Firefighters Memorial is hereby removed from the auspices of the
10 Department of Environmental Protection and reorganized and
11 established as an independent, non-profit organization, which shall
12 oversee the permanent fire museum and fallen firefighter memorial
13 to honor New Jersey's proud history of firefighting service and the
14 brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives in the fire
15 service. The museum collection donated by Ernest Day shall be
16 transferred from the Department of Environmental Protection and
17 placed in the custody of the New Jersey Fire Museum and Fallen
18 Firefighters Memorial.

19 b. The New Jersey Fire Museum and Fallen Firefighters
20 Memorial shall be governed by a board of directors which shall
21 organize within 30 days after the appointment of its members. The
22 board shall select a chairperson from among the members. The
23 board shall meet at the call of the chairperson at the times and
24 places it may deem appropriate and necessary to fulfill its duties,
25 except that the board shall meet a minimum of four times per year.
26 A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the
27 purpose of conducting business.

28 c. The board shall appoint an executive director who shall be
29 compensated within the limits of the funds made available by the
30 board for that purpose. The executive director shall serve at the
31 pleasure of the board and shall be a person qualified by training and
32 experience to perform the duties of the office.

33
34 2. (New section) a. The board of directors for the nonprofit
35 New Jersey Fire Museum and Fallen Firefighters Memorial
36 reorganized and established pursuant to section 1 of
37 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall
38 have the following responsibilities and duties:

39 (1) to make, amend, and repeal rules and bylaws for its own
40 governance and guidance not inconsistent with State and federal
41 law;

42 (2) to maintain an office within the State as it may designate;

43 (3) to contract for, accept, solicit, or collect any grants, loans,
44 funds, property, or other aid in any form from the federal
45 government or any agency or instrumentality thereof; from the State
46 or any agency, instrumentality, or political subdivision thereof; or
47 from any other public source;

1 (4) to make and enter into contracts, leases, agreements, and
2 purchases necessary for the use, or incidental to the performance of,
3 the board's duties and the exercise of its powers pursuant to
4 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill);

5 (5) to insure against any losses in connection with the board's
6 properties, operations, or assets;

7 (6) to formulate and adopt rules and regulations for the efficient
8 conduct of the work and general administration of the board, its
9 officers, and employees;

10 (7) to institute or cause to be instituted any legal proceedings or
11 processes as may be necessary to properly enforce and give effect to
12 any of the powers or duties of the executive director or the board;

13 (8) to develop an economic development master plan identifying
14 the board's objectives, policies, and programs which will encourage
15 the museum's attraction, expansion, and retention;

16 (9) to support and maintain existing museum facilities and
17 services for the educational or recreational use and benefit of the
18 public;

19 (10) to maintain exhibits and displays to promote and develop
20 public interest and understanding of firefighter history;

21 (11) to develop, raise funds for, build and operate a fire
22 museum, fire safety education center, and fallen firefighters
23 memorial, and to provide for the display of fire apparatus and
24 equipment, along with the history and documentation available for
25 preservation;

26 (12) to determine the best course of action regarding museum
27 collections both owned by and lent to the museum including, but
28 not limited to, continuing any current ownership agreements or
29 memorandums of understanding entered into by the board prior to
30 the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
31 Legislature as this bill);

32 (13) to oversee museum facility expansion, development, and
33 strategic planning;

34 (14) to address marketing, budget, and fundraising issues;

35 (15) to conduct educational and recreational programs held at
36 the museum facilities;

37 (16) to make plans and preparations for preservation and
38 restoration of museum collection pieces; and

39 (17) to partner with affiliate organizations to borrow and lend
40 temporary or permanent museum collections and to raise funds with
41 these affiliate organizations, which may include, but not be limited
42 to, other museums and similar educational or research facilities.

43 b. The board of directors may be dissolved upon a majority vote
44 of the board members. Upon dissolution of the board, any
45 collections that were donated to the museum prior to or following
46 the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
47 Legislature as this bill) shall be returned to the original donors in
48 accordance with existing ownership agreements or memorandums

1 of understanding. Museum collections that were otherwise acquired
2 or purchased as State property shall be placed in the custody of the
3 Executive Director of the New Jersey Historical Commission in the
4 Department of State upon dissolution of the board. The executive
5 director shall determine the appropriate course of action in housing
6 or maintaining the collection.

7
8 3. (New section) There is appropriated from the General Fund
9 \$200,000 to the board of the New Jersey Fire Museum and Fallen
10 Firefighters Memorial to effectuate the purposes of P.L. ,
11 c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

12
13 4. Section 1 of P.L.1991, c.215 (C.28:2-26) is repealed.

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15 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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18 STATEMENT

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20 This bill removes the New Jersey Fire Museum and Fallen
21 Firefighters Memorial from the auspices of the Department of
22 Environmental Protection and requires it to be reorganized and
23 established as an independent, non-profit organization. The
24 museum is to oversee the permanent fire museum and fallen
25 firefighter memorial to honor New Jersey's proud history of
26 firefighting service and the brave men and women who have
27 sacrificed their lives in the fire service. Under the bill, the museum
28 collection donated by Ernest Day is to be transferred from the
29 Department of Environmental Protection and placed in the custody
30 of the New Jersey Fire Museum and Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

31 The bill requires the museum to be operated by a board of
32 directors, which would have the following rights and
33 responsibilities:

- 34 • to make, amend, and repeal rules and bylaws for its own
35 governance and guidance not inconsistent with State and
36 federal law;
37 • to maintain an office within the State as it may designate;
38 • to contract for, accept, solicit, or collect any grants, loans,
39 funds, property, or other aid in any form from the federal
40 government or any agency or instrumentality thereof; from the
41 State or any agency, instrumentality, or political subdivision
42 thereof; or from any other public source;
43 • to make and enter into contracts, leases, agreements, and
44 purchases necessary for the use, or incidental to the
45 performance of, the board's duties and the exercise of its
46 powers established by the bill;
47 • to insure against any losses in connection with the board's
48 properties, operations, or assets;

- 1 • to formulate and adopt rules and regulations for the efficient
2 conduct of the work and general administration of the board, its
3 officers, and employees;
- 4 • to institute or cause to be instituted any legal proceedings or
5 processes as may be necessary to properly enforce and give
6 effect to any of the powers or duties of the executive director or
7 the board;
- 8 • to develop an economic development master plan identifying
9 the board's objectives, policies, and programs which will
10 encourage the museum's attraction, expansion, and retention;
- 11 • to support and maintain existing museum facilities and services
12 for the educational or recreational use and benefit of the public;
- 13 • to maintain exhibits and displays to promote and develop
14 public interest and understanding of firefighter history;
- 15 • to develop, raise funds for, build and operate a fire museum,
16 fire safety education center, and fallen firefighters memorial,
17 and to provide for the display of fire apparatus and equipment,
18 along with the history and documentation available for
19 preservation;
- 20 • to determine the best course of action regarding museum
21 collections both owned by and lent to the museum including,
22 but not limited to, continuing any current ownership
23 agreements or memorandums of understanding entered into by
24 the board prior to the bill's enactment;
- 25 • to oversee museum facility expansion, development, and
26 strategic planning;
- 27 • to address marketing, budget, and fundraising issues;
- 28 • to conduct educational and recreational programs held at the
29 museum facilities;
- 30 • to make plans and preparations for preservation and restoration
31 of museum collection pieces; and
- 32 • to partner with affiliate organizations to borrow and lend
33 temporary or permanent museum collections and to raise funds
34 with these affiliate organizations, which may include, but not
35 be limited to, other museums and similar educational or
36 research facilities.

37 The bill allows the board of directors to be dissolved upon a
38 majority vote of its members. Upon dissolution of the board, any
39 collections that were donated to the museum prior to or following
40 the bill's effective date is to be returned to the original donors in
41 accordance with existing ownership agreements or memorandums
42 of understanding. Museum collections that were otherwise acquired
43 or purchased as State property are to be placed in the custody of the
44 Executive Director of the New Jersey Historical Commission in the
45 Department of State upon dissolution of the board. The executive
46 director is required to determine the appropriate course of action in
47 housing or maintaining the collection.

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- 1 Finally, the bill provides a \$200,000 supplemental appropriation
- 2 to the board of the New Jersey Fire Engine and Equipment Museum
- 3 to carry out its purposes