

**SENATE, No. 4287**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED DECEMBER 13, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator NILSA I. CRUZ-PEREZ**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Revises certain functions of New Jersey Firemen's Home and composition of board of managers.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Firemen's Home and  
2 supplementing and amending various sections of the statutory  
3 law.

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

7  
8 1. R.S.30:7-1 is amended to read as follows:

9 30:7-1. The mission of the board of managers of the New  
10 Jersey Firemen's Home shall be to provide long term nursing and  
11 residential care services throughout the State to aged, needy, or  
12 disabled firemen.

13 The board of managers of the New Jersey Firemen's Home,  
14 notwithstanding the provisions of any other law to the contrary,  
15 shall consist of the president of the New Jersey State Firemen's  
16 Association, the Governor of the State, the State Commissioner of  
17 Banking and Insurance and the State Comptroller, and one member  
18 elected from each county of the State **and** one additional member  
19 who shall be a fully paid fireman, elected from each of the counties  
20 of Essex and Hudson**].** The president of the firemen's association,  
21 the Governor, the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance and the  
22 State Comptroller, respectively, for the time being, shall be ex-  
23 officio members of the board of managers.

24 **[**The elected members shall be elected by New Jersey State  
25 Firemen's Association in annual convention assembled. They**]** A  
26 manager from each county shall be elected by a vote of all firemen  
27 in good standing from their respective county pursuant to rules  
28 promulgated by the board of managers. All firemen in good  
29 standing are eligible to be elected to the position of manager.

30 The managers shall hold office for a term of four years from the  
31 **[**first day**]** second Saturday of October next succeeding their  
32 election and until their successors are elected **[and qualify]** at the  
33 annual reorganization meeting of managers.

34 A vacancy occurring among **[the elected members]** the  
35 managers other than by expiration of a term shall be filled **[as**  
36 **follows:** The president of the**]** by appointment of the chairman of  
37 the board of managers of the New Jersey State Firemen's  
38 **[Association shall appoint]** Home from the county in which the  
39 vacancy occurred **[a]** . The successor **[to]** shall serve **[until the**  
40 **first day of October next succeeding the appointment and at the next**  
41 **annual meeting of the association there shall be elected from the**  
42 **county in which the vacancy occurred a member to serve for]** the  
43 balance of the unexpired term.

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 The **members** managers shall receive no compensation for  
2 their service but may be reimbursed their actual expenses in  
3 connection with their duties as managers from the funds of the  
4 home.

5 (cf: P.L.2000, c.149, s.1)

6  
7 2. (New section) The New Jersey Firemen's Home shall have  
8 the authority to:

9 a. purchase, construct, lease and operate a licensed long-term  
10 residential care facility;

11 b. borrow money and secure the same by mortgage upon any  
12 property held or to be held by it, subject to the approval of the  
13 Governor, for all capital improvements; and

14 c. designate and contract with available, suitable, and  
15 appropriate institutions or facilities throughout the State, whether  
16 owned or operated by a government entity, third party, or otherwise,  
17 to provide long term nursing and residential care services to aged,  
18 needy, or disabled firemen.

19  
20 3. R.S.54:18-8 is amended to read as follows:

21 54:18-8. All monies received by the Treasurer of the New  
22 Jersey State Firemen's Association from the **2%** two percent tax  
23 on fire insurance premiums paid by insurance companies not  
24 organized in this State, on behalf of municipalities or fire districts  
25 which do not have a duly incorporated local firemen's relief  
26 association affiliated with the State Association under R.S.43:17-2  
27 et seq., shall be dedicated to the New Jersey Firemen's Home.  
28 Upon adoption of the budget, subject to the approval of the  
29 Governor, in accordance with R.S.30:7-1 et seq., these funds shall  
30 be allocated to the Board of Managers for the operation of the New  
31 Jersey Firemen's Home. A certified copy of the budget approved by  
32 the Governor shall be filed immediately with the Treasurer of the  
33 New Jersey State Firemen's Association.

34 The Treasurer of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association  
35 shall return to the general fund of the State Association the balance  
36 of the monies not required for the annual operation of the New  
37 Jersey Firemen's Home.

38 If there are not sufficient funds in the account for the annual  
39 operating expenses of the New Jersey Firemen's Home **in**  
40 accordance with R.S.30:7-1 et seq., the Board of Managers of the  
41 New Jersey Firemen's Home shall certify the amount of the  
42 deficiency to the Treasurer of the New Jersey State Firemen's  
43 Association. The certification shall be filed before the fiscal year  
44 for the New Jersey Firemen's Home commences. The certification  
45 shall set forth the specific sum necessary to fund the operational  
46 expenses of the New Jersey Firemen's Home. The operational  
47 budget shall include all necessary costs for the maintenance and  
48 operation of the home, including purchase of equipment. Upon

1 receipt of the certification, the Treasurer of the New Jersey State  
2 Firemen's Association shall pay the certified amount to the New  
3 Jersey Firemen's Home no later than May 1 of each year.

4 The procedure set forth below shall be followed if the Board of  
5 Managers proposes a capital project consisting of a building  
6 addition to the New Jersey Firemen's Home or the construction of a  
7 new facility:

8 a. At least 30 days before the capital project is submitted to the  
9 Governor, the Board of Managers of the New Jersey Firemen's  
10 Home shall submit to the officers and executive committee of the  
11 New Jersey State Firemen's Association, a description of the  
12 proposed project, and costs thereof, including future operational  
13 costs. Within 30 days of receipt of the notice the officers of the  
14 New Jersey Firemen's Home and New Jersey State Firemen's  
15 Association shall approve or disapprove the funding necessary  
16 therefor. After the project has been approved or disapproved, the  
17 executive committee shall meet in a special executive session to  
18 confirm the action of the officers.

19 b. If the officers or the executive committee disapproves the  
20 proposed capital project, the board of managers or the officers may  
21 appeal to the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance who shall  
22 issue a final decision within 30 days, but in any event not later than  
23 November 1 of any year. The budget then shall be submitted to the  
24 Governor for approval pursuant to law<sup>1</sup>

25 as approved by the Governor, the Treasurer of the State  
26 Fireman's association shall pay any deficiency to the New Jersey  
27 Fireman's Home no later than the first day of May each year from  
28 the two percent tax on fire insurance premiums paid by insurance  
29 companies not organized in this State.

30 (cf: P.L.1997, c.41, s.7)

31

32 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

33

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35 STATEMENT

36

37 This bill revises certain procedures related to the management of  
38 the New Jersey Firemen's Home. The New Jersey Firemen's Home  
39 is the only licensed health care facility in this State that provides  
40 long term care and residential services exclusively for New Jersey  
41 firefighters.

42 The Fireman's Home is governed by a board of managers who,  
43 subject to the approval of the Governor, direct and control its  
44 property and concerns; make by-laws, rules, and regulations; and  
45 determine the compensation, duties, and term of service of its  
46 officers and employees. Under current law, the board of managers  
47 consists of the President of the New Jersey State Firemen's  
48 Association, the Governor of the State, the State Commissioner of

1 Banking and Insurance, the State Comptroller, one member elected  
2 from each county, and one additional member who is a fully paid  
3 fireman, elected from Essex and Hudson counties. This bill removes  
4 from the board of managers the additional member from Essex and  
5 Hudson counties. The bill also provides that managers from each  
6 county are to be elected by their respective counties in accordance  
7 with election procedures promulgated by the board of managers.

8 In addition, the bill revises the procedures by which managers of  
9 the New Jersey Firemen's Home are elected and their vacancies  
10 filled. Under current law, members are elected by the New Jersey  
11 Fireman's Association to serve four-year terms and membership  
12 vacancies are filled by the president of the New Jersey Firemen's  
13 Association. Under the bill, the managers are to be elected to the  
14 board for four-year terms. Membership vacancies also would be  
15 filled by the chairman of the board of managers to serve the balance  
16 of the unexpired term.

17 The bill also grants the New Jersey Firemen's Home the power  
18 and authority to purchase, construct, lease and operate a licensed  
19 long-term residential care facility. The New Jersey Firemen's Home  
20 also would have the authority to borrow money and secure a  
21 mortgage for all capital improvements, subject to approval by the  
22 Governor. In addition, the New Jersey Firemen's Home would  
23 have the authority to designate and contract with available, suitable,  
24 and appropriate institutions or facilities throughout the State to  
25 provide long term nursing and residential care services to aged,  
26 needy, or disabled firemen.

27 Finally, this bill revises R.S.54:18-8, which requires a two percent  
28 tax on the premiums of fire insurance policies written by out-of-  
29 State insurance companies on New Jersey properties. This tax is  
30 currently paid to the New Jersey State Fireman's Association,  
31 which distributes a portion of the tax receipts to the New Jersey  
32 Firemen's Home based on the home's annual budget as approved by  
33 the Governor. The two percent tax that is paid by insurance  
34 companies on behalf of municipalities or fire districts which do not  
35 have a local firemen's relief association is dedicated to the New  
36 Jersey Firemen's Home. If there are not sufficient funds for the  
37 approved budget, current law requires the board of managers to  
38 certify to the Treasurer the amount of the deficiency with the  
39 specific sum necessary to fund the operational expenses of the New  
40 Jersey Firemen's Home.

41 This bill removes from current law the certification process and  
42 requires the Treasurer of the State Fireman's association to pay any  
43 deficiency to the New Jersey Fireman's Home no later than the first  
44 day of May each year from the two percent tax on fire insurance  
45 premiums paid by insurance companies not organized in this State.  
46 Under the bill, the Governor would have the sole authority to  
47 review the operations of the New Jersey Firemen's Home, inclusive  
48 of borrowing funds or undertaking capital improvements.