

**SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 85**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator STEVEN V. OROHO

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Turner

SYNOPSIS

Proposes constitutional amendment requiring Legislature to enact statute authorizing \$200 property tax credit for primary residence of volunteer firefighter or first aid squad member.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/5/2020)

1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** proposing to amend Article VIII,
2 Section I of the Constitution of the State of New Jersey by
3 adding a new paragraph 8.

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5 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the*
6 *General Assembly concurring):*

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8 1. The following proposed amendment to the Constitution of
9 the State of New Jersey is agreed to:

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11 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

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13 Amend Article VIII, Section I by adding a new paragraph 8 to
14 read as follows:

15 8. The Legislature shall adopt a statute entitling a resident of
16 this State, who has been for the entire tax year an active member of
17 a volunteer fire company or volunteer first aid or rescue squad or
18 association, or an active, volunteer member of a part-paid fire
19 department, incorporated pursuant to the laws of this State and
20 serving one or more counties or municipalities in this State, to a
21 property tax credit of \$200 against a tax bill for taxes on residential
22 real property owned by and serving as the primary residence of that
23 person. Any statute so enacted shall require that the State annually
24 reimburse municipalities for the total amount of property tax credits
25 provided pursuant to this paragraph.

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27 2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally
28 agreed to pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it
29 shall be submitted to the people at the next general election
30 occurring more than three months after the final agreement and
31 shall be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each
32 county designated by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the
33 General Assembly, and the Attorney General, not less than three
34 months prior to the general election.

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36 3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be
37 submitted to the people at that election in the following manner and
38 form:

39 There shall be printed on each official ballot to be used at the
40 general election, the following:

41 a. In every municipality in which voting machines are not used,
42 a legend which shall immediately precede the question as follows:

43 If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (X), plus
44 (+), or check (✓) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are
45 opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+), or check (✓) in the
46 square opposite the word "No."

47 In every municipality the following question:

YES	<p>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX CREDITS FOR HOMES OF CERTAIN FIREFIGHTERS AND FIRST AID OR RESCUE SQUAD MEMBERS</p> <p>Do you approve amending the Constitution to provide a \$200 property tax credit for the homes of certain firefighters and first aid or rescue squad members?</p>
NO	<p>INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</p> <p>This amendment would require a \$200 property tax credit for the home of a volunteer firefighter, or volunteer first aid or rescue squad member. The cost of the credits would not be paid by municipal taxpayers. The State would reimburse municipalities for the cost of the tax credits.</p>

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STATEMENT

This proposed constitutional amendment would require the Legislature to enact a statute entitling State residents, who have been for the entire tax year active members of a volunteer fire company or volunteer first aid or rescue squad or association, or active, volunteer members of a part-paid fire department, incorporated pursuant to State law and serving one or more counties or municipalities, to a credit of \$200 against the property tax bill on their owner-occupied primary residence.

Any statute enacted pursuant to this proposed amendment would require the State to annually reimburse municipalities for the total amount of property tax credits provided pursuant to this amendment.