



New Jersey State Association of Fire Districts

The next meeting of the New Jersey State Association of Fire Districts, Will be held on June 7th, 2024, at 09:30 hours

Located at Adelphia Fire Station, 993 route 33 Freehold, N.J.

Agenda

Flag Salute

Roll call of officers

Lynn Nowak, Lobbyist, Legislative Report

Attorney Braslow and Lynn Nowak ,
Proposed Legislation re Extension of Time: Leasing v/s Notes or both
DCA Pre-proposal

Treasurer Report

Secretary Report

Old Business

New Business

Election of officers

Artie Hayducka is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Please see the attachment for zoom

You're invited to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: NJSAFD June Meeting
Time: Jun 7, 2025 09:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85379516617>

Meeting ID: 853 7951 6617

One tap mobile

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New Jersey State Association of Fire Districts | P O BOX 8060 | Piscataway, NJ 08855 US

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NEW JERSEY STATE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS
QUARTERLY REPORT
BY LYNN NOWAK- Porzio Governmental Affairs
JUNE 7, 2025

DCA REGULATIONS – PRE-PROPOSAL

On Apr 2, 2025, Rich Braslow received an extensive package of rules from Jason Martucci from the Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) at the pre-proposal level. This pre-proposal affects all levels of local governments and numerous aspects of the work they do from procurement to submission of budgets to penalties for non-compliance. Rich submitted comments to Jason in advance of the May 2 deadline. I emailed Jason regarding expected publication of the formal proposal and he replied "late summer." He also provided positive replies to several of Rich's comments, agreeing with his recommendations.

POTENTIAL LEGISLATION – EXTENSION OF TIME PERIOD FOR LEASE PURCHASE OF FIRE VEHICLES AND/OR EXTENSION OF TIME PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE OF NOTES

In 2023, the Governor signed legislation which extended the "period of usefulness" of fire engines from 10-20 years for the purpose of bonding. Earlier this year, Chuck Murtaugh inquired about securing legislation that would expand this law to include lease -purchase of fire vehicles. In speaking with Rich Braslow, he recommended securing legislation that would extend the use of notes for fire vehicles, from the current 3 years, to 10 years which is what is enjoyed by municipalities. These two options are not mutually exclusive.

PENDING BILLS

Local Unit Budget Processes and Operations

S3941. Gopal/ A5240, Egan- Concerns local unit budget processes and related operations, including auditing of books and official statement of financial condition of the unit and establishes penalties for non-compliance.

While most provisions of the bill focus on municipalities and counties, certain sections that address "local units" more broadly likely include fire districts although you are not mentioned explicitly. The bill was heard in the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee "for discussion only" on June 10, 2025. The League of Municipalities and the NJ Association of Counties both supported.

Training for Electric Vehicle Fires

A4005, Karabinchak/S1687, O'Scanlon - Requires firefighters and EMTs to receive training for handling electrical vehicle (EV) fires.

Per conversations with Asm Karabinchak and his COS, he has great interest in seeing this bill move. It was heard and released by the Assembly Public Safety and Preparedness Committee

on May 15, 2025. I registered NJSAFD support. It was also supported by the NJ State Firemen's Association and EMS entities. The League of Municipalities expressed concern regarding costs but Chairman Danielsen (a former fire volunteer and fire district commissioner) dismissed that saying that the NJ Emergency Services Academy can create a class on the subject with little fiscal impact. The bill was 2nd referenced to the Assembly Oversight Committee. The bill has not been heard in the Senate.

Equipment Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl

A5195/A5223, Miller, Schaer/**S3946**, Greenstein - Requires manufacturer of certain firefighting equipment containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances to provide written notice to purchaser; prohibits sale, manufacture, and distribution of certain firefighting equipment containing intentional addition of these substances.

A5195/A5223 was heard and released by the Assembly Environment Committee on May 9, 2025. I registered NJAFD support. Support was also registered by the Professional Firefighters Association of NJ and the Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association.

Public Notice Requirement

S3905, Corrado, Beach/**A4231**, Sauickie- Requires DCA to establish online, Statewide database of local government unit legal notices.

On May 12, 2025, the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee heard and released S3905. Testimony in support was delivered by the League of Municipalities, the Association of Counties and the School Boards Association. I registered fire district support. It was opposed by the NJ Press Association. It will next be considered by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Double Water Charges

A5538, Hutchison, Miller/**S4344**, Moriarty - Prohibits municipal utilities authority from charging fire district water service charges for fire protection systems if authority imposes water service charges on customers who are also taxpayers of fire district.

A5538 was heard and released by the Assembly Public Safety and Preparedness Committee on May 15, 2025. I registered fire district support. It was referred to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. S4344 has not yet been heard by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee.

Tax Credits/Exemptions for First Responders

S2083, Gopal/Corrado/**A1754**, Rumpf- Allows certain volunteer firefighters, rescue and first aid squad members to claim \$2,000 gross income tax exemption.

I have spoken with Senator Gopal's office and his staff is going to make sure that the language defining volunteer firefighters includes fire district volunteers.

S2386, Gopal/**A3532**, Donlon- Provides gross income tax credit to active members of volunteer emergency service organizations for use of personal motor vehicle in performance of active duty.

In definition of "volunteer emergency services organization" – fire districts are included.

SCR82, Gopal/**ACR110**, Peterpaul - Proposes constitutional amendment authorizing municipalities to provide partial property tax exemption of up to 15 percent of assessed value for primary residence of certain volunteer first responders.

All three Senate bills were heard and released by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on May 16, 2024. I registered NJ State Association of Fire Districts support for all three. A3532 was heard in the Assembly Public Safety and Preparedness Committee on June 3, 2024 and I registered support. The first two bills were 2nd referenced to the Budget/Appropriations Committee in each house. The Resolution is currently waiting approval by each house.

S2386 was considered and passed unanimously by the Senate on Feb 25, 2025. It and its Assembly companion are awaiting consideration by the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

No further action on S2083/A1754 or SCR82 or ACR110.

Changes is Fire Safety Statutes

Fire Escape Inspections

S2948, Singleton/**A4266**, Venezia - Requires that certain fire escape inspections be performed by structural engineer or employee with certified fire escape inspection company.

This bill adds fire escapes to the statutory definition of fire protection equipment and defines requirements for fire protection contractor who is responsible for inspecting fire escapes and exterior stairways per above definition.

S2948 was considered by the full Senate on Feb 25, 2025 and passed (30-8). Significant floor amendments were made to the bill back in Oct of 2024. A4266 was heard, amended and released by the Assembly Regulated Professions Committee on Jan 16, 2025. S2948 and A4266 are awaiting consideration by the Assembly Housing Committee.

Volunteer Exemption from Payment to UI for Stipends Received

A1429, Haider/**S788**, Johnson - Exempts certain volunteer first responders from coverage under "unemployment compensation law"; excludes from gross income amounts received for certain volunteer emergency services.

A1429 was heard and released by the Assembly Labor Committee on Oct 29, 2024. I registered fire district support. It was 2nd referenced to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. S788 was heard and released by the Senate Labor Committee on March 3, 2025. I registered fire district support. It was then referred to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Health Benefits for Volunteers

S1388, Singleton/**A3086**, Guardian - Permits inclusion of volunteer firefighters and other emergency responders within municipal eligible employee group for purposes of the small employer health benefits plan statutes.

*This bill was heard and released by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee on Sept 30, 2024. I testified asking that fire districts be explicitly included (conversations with staff reinforced my and Rich Braslow's feeling that as written, the bill is unclear whether or not fire districts are included). Senator Singleton, the sponsor and chair of the Committee stated that he understands our request and that further amendments can be made at another date as the bill will be referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations. **The bill was referred to that committee and no action has been taken to date. No action has been taken in the Assembly. A potential fiscal impact is likely to delay this bill moving forward.***

Fire Hydrant Repair

S3121, Greenstein/**A2480**, Quijano - Requires certain local authorities to inspect, maintain, and repair fire hydrants in planned real estate developments.

This bill was also heard and released by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee on Sept 30, 2024. Fire districts are not included and my further review of the bill showed that we do not want to be.

Fee on Firefighter Plates

A4284, Danielsén/**S3366**, Bucco - Eliminates fee for special plates for firefighters and members of first aid or rescue squads

A4284 passed the full Assembly back in June. It passed the Senate Transportation Committee on Jan 30, 2025. It is awaiting consideration by the full Senate.

Water Company Mandates

A1152, Murphy – Prohibits water companies from assessing more than one charge per fire hydrant to fire departments, fire districts or volunteer fire companies for use of fire hydrants. *A1152 was introduced on Jan 9, 2024 and referred to the Assembly Public Safety and Preparedness Committee.*

The NJ State Association of Fire Districts has proposed amendments to this bill that would also place a limit on rate increases to no more than two percent per year and prevent an effective date for a rate increase prior to the first date of the ensuing fiscal year.

A1153, Murphy– Requires water companies to provide representative of fire department, fire district or volunteer fire company access fire hydrants for water flow rate testing purposes. *A1153 was introduced on Jan 9, 2024 and referred to the Assembly Public Safety and Preparedness Committee.*

Treasurer's report for NJSAFD / PNC BANK

As of 6/7/2025

Deposits from Dues collected since the last meeting.

Total = \$33,600.00

Current Checking Account = \$ 37929.67

To be Paid currently:

Cash out of Pocket, Artie Hayducka = \$170.49

Crown Trophy of Green Brook = \$98.10

Porzio Governmental Affairs = \$6180.00

Balance after Payments = \$31,481.08

Last Meetings Refreshments were \$48.45 (paid) —

This Meetings refreshments will be on next month's report \$ 33-96

Money Market Account: \$50,481.27

(this is a \$481.27 interest over 3 months)

We investigated moving \$30,000.00 to a fixed CD.

That did not gain much more interest and locked into more years than we approved. Did not change the Money Market account.

Thank You,

Greg Santonastaso

Treasurer

Secretary report for June 7, 2025

1. Due to some technical issues with our tape recorder, we will now be using Zoom recorder to tape all our meeting minutes.
2. Last year we collected 107 dues for membership = \$32,100.00. This year we have collected 112 membership dues = \$33,600.00
3. One of the reasons I feel we collected a few more dues is because not only did we email the invoices out. I also sent invoices by snail mail to each Fire District that did not reply to the emails. Which costed us \$146.00 for postage stamps that were paid for in March 2025's meeting.
4. We now have a true Zoom account which caused \$170.49 that came out of my pocket

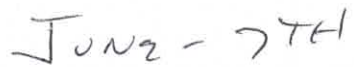
Artie Hayducka

Secretary, NJSAFD



JUNE 7, 25

Print name	County	Township	District
Artis Haysack	MID	Piscataway	1.
Nick Lombardi	Middlesex	"	"
Richard Horton	Burlington	Riverside	20
John Borda	Monmouth	Marlboro	1
Marty Robinson	Monmouth	Marlboro Di	1
George Patten	Monmouth	Howell	2
Frank E. Biddle III	Monmouth	Howell	2
Katie Carter	Monmouth	Howell	2
Tom Koubek	Monmouth	Howell	5
K Harper	Monmouth	Howell	5
J Harper	Monmouth	Howell	5
T Koubek	Monmouth	Howell	5
K Mannick	Monmouth	Howell	5
R Donohue	Monmouth	Howell	5
Gary Keyser	MOERIS	Hanover	3
KARL MANNICK	W		

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