



Treasurer's Report for NJSAFD / PNC Bank

As of December 5th, 2025

We did not collect, or deposit any Dues since the last meeting.

The new year contributions/dues will start in January 2026.

The Total in all of the NJSAFD accounts = \$69,620.32

The current Checking account had = \$27,513.52

Paid currently :

Cash out of Pocket (misc. etc.), Artie Hayducka = \$592.06

VFIS = \$1481.00

Smith Communication = \$1100.00

Porzio Governmental Affairs = \$6,180.00

Last meetings Refreshments were covered by VFIS = \$0.00

Balance in the Checking account after Payments = \$18,161.46

The Money Market account = \$51,458.86 that is another \$476.14 in Interest.

Thank You,

Greg Santonastaso

Treasurer

New Jersey State Association of Fire Districts

Date: 12-5-25	Please Print	Page #	of
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Name	County	Township	District #
Azziz Hayakara	Middlesex	Piscataway	1
Greg Santonastaso	Middlesex	Piscataway	1
Peter Goldring	Monmouth	Howell	2
Frank Biddle III	"	"	"
Carmelo La Motta	"	"	"
Richard Horton	Burlington	Riverside	70
Tom Koubek	Monmouth	Howell	5
Matthew Molloy	Monmouth	Marlboro	2
Giuseppe Ancona	"	"	"
Robert Donahue	"	Howell	5
Ken Harper	"	"	"
James Harper	"	"	"
Karl Mannik	"	"	"
DOUG TILTON	MONMOUTH	MARLBORO	1
Tim O'Donnell			
Lynn Nowack			

Zoom

NEW JERSEY STATE ASSOCIATION OF FIRE DISTRICTS
QUARTERLY REPORT
BY LYNN NOWAK- Porzio Governmental Affairs
December 6, 2025

DCA REGULATIONS – PRE-PROPOSAL FROM DLGS

On Apr 2, 2025, Rich Braslow received an extensive package of rules from Jason Martucci in 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. Jason provided positive replies to several of Rich's comments. While Jason originally gave me "late summer" as the target for publication of the rule proposal, we are obviously past that. He also said that the procurement piece will be delayed even further. ***Per a conversation with Lori Buckelew from the League of Municipalities, it appears that this proposal has been put aside, with the procurement piece on indefinite hold. The less controversial pieces of the pre-proposal were drafted into legislation – see below – pending legislation, LOCAL UNIT BUDGET PROCESSES.***

DCA REGULATIONS – RULE PROPOSAL FROM DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY

On Aug 18, 2025, the Department/Division proposed rules related to Fire Code Enforcement.

Of interest, the Department proposes to add language clarifying that the governing body of the county, municipality, fire districts, or fire departments, as applicable, are responsible for ensuring that the local enforcing agency has an adequate number of inspectors. Additionally, amendments are proposed to include the replacement of all terms equivalent to "certification" with terms equivalent to "licensure." These amendments are proposed to comply with the statutory change at N.J.S.A. 52:27D-203, as amended at P.L. 2025, c. 19, which, among other items, converted all fire inspectors and fire officials from certified to licensed professionals.

Comments are due Oct 17, 2025. Rich Braslow is reviewing to see if NJSAFD needs to weigh in. This was also distributed to all members in mid-August. No comments were received so none were submitted.

DCA/DLGS - LOCAL PUBLIC FINANCE NOTICE

On Oct 8, a Local Public Finance Notice was published regarding 2026 Fire District Budget and Elections Guidance. Please go to the DCA/DLGS website to see the contents of this Notice.

POTENTIAL LEGISLATION – EXTENSION OF TIME PERIOD FOR LEASE PURCHASE OF FIRE VEHICLES AND 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. ***Through Chuck’s initial and influential efforts, Sen John Burzichelli has agreed to sponsor the bill. Per my conversations with his COS, it is currently being drafted by the Office of Legislative Services (OLS). It will contain provisions for both lease-purchase and notes. Our annual meeting speaker, Asm Rob Karabinchak, will likely introduce the bill in the lower house. We will pursue moving the bill in the new session beginning in January 2026. I am also speaking with the League of Municipalities to gain their support. They will likely provide it but are waiting to see a bill draft.***

APPOINTMENT TO THE FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION

With Artie Hayducka not only leaving us as a fire commissioner and secretary to the board, he will also be leaving a vacancy on the Fire Safety Commission. Per his recommendation, I have communicated with the Governor’s Appointments Office to have Peter Goldring replace him in that position. They responded immediately and I believe that appointment is in play.

BILLS SIGNED INTO LAW

Publication of Legal Notices

S4654, Scutari/A5878, Schnall- Revises how public entities and others must comply with publicizing required legal notices and advertisements, including notices related to the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA).

The impetus for the legislation is the demise of print newspapers which has made compliance with the requirement that legal notices be published in these entities virtually impossible.

The new law applies to "Local Government Units" which includes Fire Districts.

"Legal notice" means any resolution, official proclamation, notice or advertisement of any sort, kind, or character, including proposals for bids on public work and otherwise, required by law or by the order or rule of any court to be published by a public entity, corporation, an individual, or any other entity.

The effective date of the new law is March 1, 2026. A detailed memo on this new law was distributed to all NJSAFD members in mid-July and was distributed at the Annual Meeting in Sept. We understand that DCA will be publishing a Local Finance Notice to provide further guidance but they are still working with other departments affected by this legislation to finalize it. It still has not been published.

Signed into law, June 30, 2025, P.L. 2025, c. 72 NOTE: This bill moved from introduction to enactment in the course of just 10 days.

PENDING LEGISLATION

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 and likely include fire districts although you are not mentioned explicitly. S3941 was heard and released by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee on Nov 10. A5240 was

heard and released by the Assembly State and Local Government Committee on June 16 and is on the Dec 8 Assembly Board List. The League of Municipalities and the NJ Association of Counties are both in support.

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. **No further action on this bill.***

Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS)

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. It passed the full Assembly on June 30, 2025. It was heard and released by the Senate Environment Committee on June 9 and was amended on the Senate floor on June 30 to make it identical to the Assembly bill regarding the effective date of certain provisions. **No further action to date.***

S4346, Moriarty/A5537, Miller - Provides extension for fire departments on prohibition on use of firefighting foam containing intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances; appropriates \$500,000 to DEP for grant program to reimburse municipalities for costs of replacing firefighting foam.

S4346 was heard and released by the Senate Law and Public Safety (SLP) Committee on Dec 4. I am trying to ascertain if fire districts use PFAs. A5537 was previously released by Assembly Public Safety and Preparedness Committee. Both Committees removed the \$500,000 appropriation. At the SLP hearing, Senator Henry asked if fire districts are included and sponsor and Committee member Senator Moriarty said, "yes." I spoke to him and his aide after the hearing and said that I was unsure if the language included fire districts. They are going to check with the Office of Legislative Services (OLS).

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 which released it. It passed the full Assembly unanimously on June 30. The combined bills were heard and released by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee on Nov 10. I registered fire district support. It next needs to be heard by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Policy for Pregnant Firefighters

S4823, Ruiz/A3810, Miller - Requires adoption of policy addressing job-related issues of pregnant firefighters in paid or part-paid fire departments.

S4823 was heard and released by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on Dec 4. It previously passed the Assembly in Feb of 2025.

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. There has been no further action on this bill since consideration by Senate committee in May of 2024 in either house,*

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.

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.

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.

No further action since May of 2024. It is too late for necessary legislative action to place a constitutional change on the ballot in the coming November election.

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. The legislation is awaiting consideration by the Assembly Housing Committee.
