53:5A-14.5

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2021 **CHAPTER:** 75

NJSA: 53:5A-14.5 (Provides accidental death benefits in certain circumstances to surviving spouse

and surviving child of SPRS member or retiree who participated in 9/11 World Trade Center

rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations.)

BILL NO: S3208 (Substituted for A1676 (1R))

SPONSOR(S) Sarlo, Paul A. and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 11/16/2020

COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY: Appropriations

SENATE: Budget & Appropriations

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: 3/25/2021

SENATE: 1/11/2021

DATE OF APPROVAL: 5/3/2021

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (First Reprint enacted)

Yes

S3208

INTRODUCED BILL (INCLUDES SPONSOR'S STATEMENT): Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes

SENATE: Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: Yes 11/23/2020

12/7/2020

A1676 (1R)

INTRODUCED BILL (INCLUDES SPONSOR'S STATEMENT): Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes

SENATE: No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

	FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:	No	
	LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	Yes	3/25/2021
VETO N	IESSAGE:	No	
GOVER	NOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	Yes	
	WING WERE PRINTED: To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or mailto:refdeske	<u>@njstatel</u>	ib.org
	REPORTS:	No	
	HEARINGS:	No	
	NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	No	

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 75, approved May 3, 2021 Senate, No. 3208 (First Reprint)

AN ACT concerning accidental death benefits for surviving spouses and surviving children of certain members or retirees of the State Police Retirement System, and supplementing P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-1 et seq.).

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BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

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1. a. (1) The surviving spouse or surviving child or children of a retired member of the State Police Retirement System who received an accidental disability retirement allowance in accordance with subsection 1 [e.] <u>a.</u> 1 of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) 1 [, or subsection a. thereof provided that the documentation required pursuant to subsection e. is submitted,] shall receive the accidental death benefits as set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) 1, provided that the retired member died before July 8, 2019 and the surviving spouse, child, or children submit documentation that the member would have qualified for a retirement allowance in accordance with subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10)¹, upon the submission to the board of trustees of proper proofs of the death of that retiree, notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation to the contrary. Notwithstanding the provision of subsection c. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) or any other provision of law to the contrary, the lump sum benefit of 3 1/2 times final compensation in subsection e. of section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) shall apply.

(2) The surviving spouse or surviving child or children, or any legal guardian of the surviving child or children, shall be eligible to receive the accidental death benefits as set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14), upon the submission to the board of trustees of proper proofs of the death of the member or retiree, notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation to the contrary, if the spouse, child, children, or guardian submits sufficient documentation that the deceased member or retiree would have qualified for an accidental disability retirement allowance or ordinary disability retirement allowance, 1 in accordance with subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) 1, provided that the member or retiree filed before death the written and sworn statement required by that subsection e. indicating the dates and locations of service 1.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

board of trustees shall require the submission of such information as the deceased member or retiree would have been required to submit in accordance with subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) and such other information as the board of trustees may deem necessary to make a determination. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the lump sum benefit of 3 ½ times final compensation in subsection e. of section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) shall apply.

- (3) Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection shall apply only if the member's or retiree's death was the result of a qualifying condition or impairment of health as defined in subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) which the medical board determines to be caused by participation in World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations.
- b. (1) The surviving spouse of a deceased retired member who is receiving a pension in accordance with section 25 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-25) due to the death of the retired member on or before July 8, 2019 shall be eligible to apply to the board of trustees and, upon approval of the application by the board, shall receive the accidental death benefits set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) if the surviving spouse submits sufficient documentation that the deceased retiree would have qualified for a ¹[recalculation of the retiree's service retirement allowance or ordinary disability]¹ retirement ¹[allowance in accordance with] under ¹ subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) but for the fact that the ¹[recalculation] benefit ¹ was not available to the retiree prior to the retiree's death.
- (2) A surviving spouse who received the pension in accordance with section 25 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-25), but whose eligibility for that pension was terminated because the surviving spouse no longer met the definition of "surviving spouse" as set forth in section 3 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-3), shall be eligible to apply to the board of trustees and, upon approval of the application by the board, shall receive the accidental death benefits set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) under the same terms and conditions and pursuant to the same requirements as set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection. If the former spouse receives the accidental death benefits as set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14), a surviving child or children who are receiving benefits pursuant section 25 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-25) shall no longer be eligible to receive those benefits.
- (3) If there is no surviving spouse or no former surviving spouse because the spouse has died or has declined in writing to apply pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the surviving child or surviving children who are receiving benefits in accordance with section 25 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-25) on the effective date of this act, P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), or any legal guardian of the child or children, may submit the application and

receive the benefits set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) under the same terms and conditions and pursuant to the same requirements as set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

- (4) The board of trustees shall provide written notification to each surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, and surviving child, and any legal guardian of a surviving child, of the provisions of this subsection, within 30 days after the effective date of this act.
- (5) In order to receive the benefit provided in this subsection, a surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, or surviving child, or any legal guardian of the surviving child, shall submit an application not later than two years after the effective of this act.
- (6) The board of trustees shall require the surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, or surviving child, or any legal guardian of the surviving child, to submit such information as the deceased member or retiree would have been required to submit in accordance with subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) and such other information as the board of trustees may deem necessary to review the application and make a determination. Paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of this subsection shall apply only if the retiree's death was the result of a qualifying condition or impairment of health as defined in subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) which the medical board determines to be caused by participation in World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations ¹ and if the deceased member or retiree died before July 8, 2019¹.
- (7) Upon approval of an application, the surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, or surviving child or children, or any legal guardian of the surviving child or children, shall receive the annual payments of the accidental death benefit, and the lump sum death benefit payment, as set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14). The annual benefit payments shall apply only for payments made after the effective date of this act. No surviving spouse or former surviving spouse or surviving child, or any legal guardian of the surviving child, shall be granted a retroactive payment based upon the difference between the benefit the person would have received if the benefit pursuant to this subsection had been applicable on the date of death of the retiree and the benefit that the person has received from that date of death to the effective date of this act. The lump sum benefit paid to a beneficiary shall be and shall not exceed 3 ½ times the retiree's final compensation in total regardless of the provision of law under which the lump sum death benefit was paid.
- (8) The health care benefit premiums to be paid by the State in accordance with subsection h. of section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) shall apply if the surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, or surviving child or children are still receiving coverage from the employer-sponsored health insurance program or, if that coverage was terminated, can again become eligible for such coverage. If such coverage is no longer available, the surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, or surviving child or children shall be eligible to enroll in the

S3208 [1R] 4

1	State Health Benefits Program, P.L.1961, c.49 (C.52:14-17.25 et seq.),
2	notwithstanding any provision thereof to the contrary.
3	c. This act, P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the
4	Legislature as this bill), shall be known and may be cited as the
5	Trooper I Robert Nagle and Staff Sergeant Bryan McCoy 911 First
6	Responders Act.
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8	2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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13	Provides accidental death benefits in certain circumstances to
14	surviving spouse and surviving child of SPRS member or retiree
15	who participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or
16	cleanup operations.

SENATE, No. 3208

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 16, 2020

Sponsored by: Senator PAUL A. SARLO District 36 (Bergen and Passaic) Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR. District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Provides accidental death benefits in certain circumstances to surviving spouse and surviving child of SPRS member or retiree who participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/19/2020)

AN ACT concerning accidental death benefits for surviving spouses and surviving children of certain members or retirees of the State Police Retirement System, and supplementing P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-1 et seq.).

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

- 1. a. (1) The surviving spouse or surviving child or children of a retired member of the State Police Retirement System who received an accidental disability retirement allowance in accordance with subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10), or subsection a. thereof provided that the documentation required pursuant to subsection e. is submitted, shall receive the accidental death benefits as set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14), upon the submission to the board of trustees of proper proofs of the death of that retiree, notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation to the contrary. Notwithstanding the provision of subsection c. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) or any other provision of law to the contrary, the lump sum benefit of 3 ½ times final compensation in subsection e. of section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) shall apply.
- (2) The surviving spouse or surviving child or children, or any legal guardian of the surviving child or children, shall be eligible to receive the accidental death benefits as set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14), upon the submission to the board of trustees of proper proofs of the death of the member or retiree, notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation to the contrary, if the spouse, child, children, or guardian submits sufficient documentation that the deceased member or retiree would have qualified for an accidental disability retirement allowance, or a recalculation of the service retirement allowance or ordinary disability retirement allowance, in accordance with subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10), provided that the member or retiree filed before death the written and sworn statement required by that subsection e. indicating the dates and locations of service. The board of trustees shall require the submission of such information as the deceased member or retiree would have been required to submit in accordance with subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) and such other information as the board of trustees may deem necessary to make a determination. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the lump sum benefit of 3 ½ times final compensation in subsection e. of section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) shall apply.
- (3) Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection shall apply only if the member's or retiree's death was the result of a qualifying condition or impairment of health as defined in subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) which the medical board

determines to be caused by participation in World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations.

- b. (1) The surviving spouse of a deceased retired member who is receiving a pension in accordance with section 25 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-25) due to the death of the retired member on or before July 8, 2019 shall be eligible to apply to the board of trustees and, upon approval of the application by the board, shall receive the accidental death benefits set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) if the surviving spouse submits sufficient documentation that the deceased retiree would have qualified for a recalculation of the retiree's service retirement allowance or ordinary disability retirement allowance in accordance with subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) but for the fact that the recalculation was not available to the retiree prior to the retiree's death.
- (2) A surviving spouse who received the pension in accordance with section 25 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-25), but whose eligibility for that pension was terminated because the surviving spouse no longer met the definition of "surviving spouse" as set forth in section 3 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-3), shall be eligible to apply to the board of trustees and, upon approval of the application by the board, shall receive the accidental death benefits set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) under the same terms and conditions and pursuant to the same requirements as set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection. If the former spouse receives the accidental death benefits as set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14), a surviving child or children who are receiving benefits pursuant section 25 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-25) shall no longer be eligible to receive those benefits.
- (3) If there is no surviving spouse or no former surviving spouse because the spouse has died or has declined in writing to apply pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the surviving child or surviving children who are receiving benefits in accordance with section 25 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-25) on the effective date of this act, P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), or any legal guardian of the child or children, may submit the application and receive the benefits set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) under the same terms and conditions and pursuant to the same requirements as set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection.
- (4) The board of trustees shall provide written notification to each surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, and surviving child, and any legal guardian of a surviving child, of the provisions of this subsection, within 30 days after the effective date of this act.
- (5) In order to receive the benefit provided in this subsection, a surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, or surviving child, or any legal guardian of the surviving child, shall submit an application not later than two years after the effective of this act.

S3208 SARLO, DIEGNAN

- (6) The board of trustees shall require the surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, or surviving child, or any legal guardian of the surviving child, to submit such information as the deceased member or retiree would have been required to submit in accordance with subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) and such other information as the board of trustees may deem necessary to review the application and make a determination. Paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of this subsection shall apply only if the retiree's death was the result of a qualifying condition or impairment of health as defined in subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) which the medical board determines to be caused by participation in World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations.
- (7) Upon approval of an application, the surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, or surviving child or children, or any legal guardian of the surviving child or children, shall receive the annual payments of the accidental death benefit, and the lump sum death benefit payment, as set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14). The annual benefit payments shall apply only for payments made after the effective date of this act. No surviving spouse or former surviving spouse or surviving child, or any legal guardian of the surviving child, shall be granted a retroactive payment based upon the difference between the benefit the person would have received if the benefit pursuant to this subsection had been applicable on the date of death of the retiree and the benefit that the person has received from that date of death to the effective date of this act. The lump sum benefit paid to a beneficiary shall be and shall not exceed 3 ½ times the retiree's final compensation in total regardless of the provision of law under which the lump sum death benefit was paid.
- (8) The health care benefit premiums to be paid by the State in accordance with subsection h. of section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) shall apply if the surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, or surviving child or children are still receiving coverage from the employer-sponsored health insurance program or, if that coverage was terminated, can again become eligible for such coverage. If such coverage is no longer available, the surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, or surviving child or children shall be eligible to enroll in the State Health Benefits Program, P.L.1961, c.49 (C.52:14-17.25 et seq.), notwithstanding any provision thereof to the contrary.
- c. This act, P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall be known and may be cited as the Trooper I Robert Nagle and Staff Sergeant Bryan McCoy 911 First Responders Act.

45 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill would provide accidental death benefits to a surviving spouse or surviving child of a deceased member or retiree of the State Police Retirement System (SPRS) if the member or retiree participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operation and subsequently the member's or retiree's health was impaired as a result of that participation and the member or retiree died of a qualifying illness or disease contracted from that participation.

A recently enacted law, P.L.2019, c.157, enacted on July 8, 2019, provides an accidental disability retirement to such SPRS members or retirees under certain circumstances. This bill also provides the accidental death benefits to the surviving spouses or surviving children of an SPRS retiree who died before July 8, 2019 and thus did not have available the option to receive the accidental disability retirement provided by P.L.2019, c.89. The bill provides accidental death benefits to a surviving spouse and surviving children if the retiree participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operation and subsequently died in retirement before July 8

retiree participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operation and subsequently died in retirement before July 8, 2019 of a qualifying illness or disease contracted from that participation.

The accidental death benefits provide the surviving spouse with an annual payment of 70% of the member's final compensation, with certain annual adjustments that may be available to increase that final compensation over a certain period of time. If there is no surviving spouse, the surviving children receive the same annual payment. In addition, the surviving spouse or surviving children receive 3.5 times the retiree's final compensation as a lump sum payment regardless of the retiree's age at the time of death, and the State will pay the entire premium for the health care benefits coverage for the retiree's surviving spouse and surviving children. This benefit does not end when the surviving spouse remarries.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3208

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 19, 2020

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3208, with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill would provide accidental death benefits to a surviving spouse or surviving child under the State Police Retirement System (SPRS) if the deceased spouse or parent participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operation and had subsequent impairment of health as a result of that participation and died of a qualifying illness or disease contracted from that participation.

A recently enacted law, P.L.2019, c.157, enacted on July 8, 2019, provides an accidental disability retirement to such SPRS members or retirees under certain circumstances. Deceased members or retirees who died prior to the implementation of that law could not benefit from its passage.

This current bill provides the accidental death benefits to the surviving spouses or surviving children of an SPRS retiree who died before July 8, 2019 and thus did not have available the option to apply for the accidental disability retirement provided by P.L.2019, c.157. The bill provides accidental death benefits to a surviving spouse and surviving children if the retiree participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operation and subsequently died in retirement before July 8, 2019 of a qualifying illness or disease contracted from that participation.

The accidental death benefits provide the surviving spouse with an annual payment of 70% of the member's final compensation, with certain annual adjustments that may be available to increase that final compensation over a certain period of time. If there is no surviving spouse, the surviving children receive the same annual payment. In addition, the surviving spouse or surviving children receive 3.5 times the retiree's final compensation as a lump sum payment regardless of the retiree's age at the time of death, and the State will pay the entire premium for the health care benefits coverage for the retiree's surviving spouse and surviving children. This benefit does not end when the surviving spouse remarries.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

There is an amendment to provide that the surviving spouse, child, or children of a retired member of the SPRS who was receiving an accidental disability retirement allowance and died before July 8, 2019 would receive the accidental death benefit under the circumstances specified in the bill.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The OLS anticipates that annual State expenditures will increase by an indeterminate amount as the accidental death benefits provided under the bill will raise annual State contributions to the State Police Retirement System and as the State will pay the entire premiums for the health care benefits coverage for affected beneficiaries. The aggregate expenditure increase cannot be estimated because of a lack of information on the number of individuals who will become eligible for the benefits.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE SENATE, No. 3208 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: NOVEMBER 23, 2020

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Provides accidental death benefits in certain circumstances to

surviving spouse and surviving child of SPRS member or retiree who participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup

operations.

Type of Impact: Expenditure Increase to the State General Fund.

Agencies Affected: Department of the Treasury, Division of Pensions and Benefits.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
State Cost Increase		Indeterminate	

- This bill will provide accidental death benefits to an eligible surviving spouse or surviving child of a State Police Retirement System (SPRS) member or retiree who participated in the 9/11 World Trade Center operations, and subsequently died of an illness or disease contracted as a result of that participation.
- The bill will increase a surviving spouse's benefit by 40 percent, from 50 percent of final compensation to 70 percent, resulting in an unfunded liability to the SPRS and increasing the contributions required to be paid by the State. The benefits also include State-paid health care coverage for the surviving spouse and surviving children.
- The aggregate cost increase cannot be estimated because it will depend on the number of surviving spouses or surviving children of SPRS who will become eligible for the increased annual benefits and, the health care benefits coverage, which are unknown at this time.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill provides accidental death benefits to a surviving spouse or surviving child of a deceased member or retiree of the State Police Retirement System (SPRS) if the member or retiree



participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations and subsequently the member's or retiree's health was impaired as a result of that participation. The bill specifies the circumstances under which the surviving spouse or surviving child would be eligible for the benefits and requires certain documentation to be provided to the board of trustees of the SPRS.

A law enacted in 2019 provides an accidental disability retirement to such SPRS members or retirees under certain circumstances. This bill also provides the accidental death benefits to the surviving spouses or surviving children of an SPRS retiree who died before July 8, 2019 and thus did not have available the option to receive the accidental disability retirement provided by the 2019 law. The bill provides accidental death benefits to a surviving spouse and surviving children if the retiree participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations and subsequently died in retirement before July 8, 2019 of a qualifying illness or disease contracted from that participation.

The accidental death benefits provide the surviving spouse with an annual payment of 70 percent of the member's final compensation, with certain annual adjustments that may be available to increase that final compensation over a certain period of time. If there is no surviving spouse, the surviving children receive the same annual payment. In addition, the surviving spouse or surviving children receive 3.5 times the retiree's final compensation as a lump sum payment regardless of the retiree's age at the time of death, and the State will pay the entire premium for the health care benefits coverage for the retiree's surviving spouse and surviving children. This benefit does not end when the surviving spouse remarries.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

This bill will provide accidental death benefits to an eligible surviving spouse or surviving child of a SPRS member or retiree who participated in the 9/11 World Trade Center operations and subsequently died of an illness or disease contracted as a result of that participation.

The bill will increase a surviving spouse's annual benefit by 40 percent, from 50 percent of final compensation to 70 percent, resulting in an unfunded liability to the SPRS and increasing the contributions required to be paid by the State. The surviving spouse and the surviving children will also receive State-paid health care benefits. The aggregate cost increase cannot be estimated because it will depend on the number of surviving spouses or surviving children of SPRS who will become eligible for the annual benefit provided and the cost of the health care benefits coverage, which are unknown at this time.

Section: State Government

Analyst: Kimberly M. Clemmensen

Lead Fiscal Analyst

Approved: Thomas Koenig

Assistant Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3208 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 7, 2020

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Provides accidental death benefits in certain circumstances to

surviving spouse and surviving child of SPRS member or retiree who participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup

operations.

Type of Impact: Expenditure Increase to the State General Fund.

Agencies Affected: Department of the Treasury, Division of Pensions and Benefits.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
State Cost Increase		Indeterminate	

- This bill will increase the annual accidental death benefit by 40 percent from 50 percent of final compensation to 70 percent for certain surviving spouses, with a greater increase for surviving children of an SPRS member who died as a result of their participation in the 9/11 World Trade Center (WTC) rescue and recovery operation. The bill will result in an unfunded liability to the SPRS and increase the contributions required to be paid by the State. The surviving spouse and the surviving children will also receive State-paid health care benefits.
- The aggregate cost increase cannot be estimated because it will depend on the number of surviving spouses or surviving children of SPRS who will become eligible for the increased annual benefits and the health care benefits coverage, which are unknown at this time.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill would provide accidental death benefits to a surviving spouse or surviving child under the SPRS if the deceased spouse or parent participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operation and had subsequent impairment of health as a result of that participation and died of a qualifying illness or disease contracted from that participation.



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A recently enacted law, P.L.2019, c.157, enacted on July 8, 2019, provides an accidental disability retirement to such SPRS members or retirees under certain circumstances. Deceased members or retirees who died prior to the implementation of that law could not benefit from its passage.

The bill provides the accidental death benefits to the surviving spouses or surviving children of an SPRS retiree who died before July 8, 2019 and thus did not have available the option to apply for the accidental disability retirement provided by P.L.2019, c.157. The bill provides accidental death benefits to a surviving spouse and surviving children if the retiree participated in 9/11 WTC rescue, recovery, or cleanup operation and subsequently died in retirement before July 8, 2019 of a qualifying illness or disease contracted from that participation.

The accidental death benefits provide the surviving spouse with an annual payment of 70 percent of the member's final compensation, with certain annual adjustments that may be available to increase that final compensation over a certain period of time. If there is no surviving spouse, the surviving children receive the same annual payment. In addition, the surviving spouse or surviving children receive 3.5 times the retiree's final compensation as a lump sum payment regardless of the retiree's age at the time of death, and the State will pay the entire premium for the health care benefits coverage for the retiree's surviving spouse and surviving children. This benefit does not end when the surviving spouse remarries.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

This bill will increase the annual accidental death benefit by 40 percent from 50 percent of final compensation to 70 percent for certain surviving spouses, with a greater increase for surviving children of an SPRS member who died as a result of their participation in the 9/11 WTC rescue and recovery operation. The bill will result in an unfunded liability to the SPRS and increase the contributions required to be paid by the State. The surviving spouse and the surviving children will also receive State-paid health care benefits. The aggregate cost increase cannot be estimated because it will depend on the number of surviving spouses or surviving children of SPRS who will become eligible for the annual benefit provided and the cost of the health care benefits coverage, which are unknown at this time.

Section: State Government

Analyst: Kimberly M. Clemmensen

Lead Fiscal Analyst

Approved: Thomas Koenig

Assistant Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint] **SENATE, No. 3208**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 17, 2021

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3208 (1R).

This bill would provide accidental death benefits to a surviving spouse or surviving child under the State Police Retirement System (SPRS) if the deceased spouse or parent participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operation and had subsequent impairment of health as a result of that participation and died of a qualifying illness or disease contracted from that participation.

A recently enacted law, P.L.2019, c.157, enacted on July 8, 2019, provides an accidental disability retirement to such SPRS members or retirees under certain circumstances. Deceased members or retirees who died prior to the implementation of that law could not benefit from its passage.

This current bill provides the accidental death benefits to the surviving spouses or surviving children of an SPRS retiree who died before July 8, 2019 and thus did not have available the option to apply for the accidental disability retirement provided by P.L.2019, c.157. The bill provides accidental death benefits to a surviving spouse and surviving children if the retiree participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operation and subsequently died in retirement before July 8, 2019 of a qualifying illness or disease contracted from that participation.

The accidental death benefits provide the surviving spouse with an annual payment of 70% of the member's final compensation, with certain annual adjustments that may be available to increase that final compensation over a certain period of time. If there is no surviving spouse, the surviving children receive the same annual payment. In addition, the surviving spouse or surviving children receive 3.5 times the retiree's final compensation as a lump sum payment regardless of the retiree's age at the time of death, and the State will pay the entire premium for the health care benefits coverage for the retiree's surviving spouse and surviving children. This benefit does not end when the surviving spouse remarries.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3208 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1676, which was amended and reported by the committee on this date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill will increase the annual accidental death benefit by 40 percent from 50 percent of final compensation to 70 percent for certain surviving spouses, with a greater increase for surviving children of an SPRS member who died as a result of their participation in the 9/11 World Trade Center (WTC) rescue and recovery operation. The bill will result in an unfunded liability to the SPRS and increase the contributions required to be paid by the State. The surviving spouse and the surviving children will also receive State-paid health care benefits.

The aggregate cost increase cannot be estimated because it will depend on the number of surviving spouses or surviving children of SPRS who will become eligible for the increased annual benefits and the health care benefits coverage, which are unknown at this time.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1676

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO
District 20 (Union)
Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO
District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)
Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT
District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Benson, McGuckin and Zwicker

SYNOPSIS

Provides accidental death benefits in certain circumstances to surviving spouse and surviving child of SPRS member or retiree who participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/15/2021)

AN ACT concerning accidental death benefits for surviving spouses 2 and surviving children of certain members or retirees of the State Police Retirement System, and supplementing P.L.1965, c.89 4 (C.53:5A-1 et seq.).

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BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

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- 1. a. (1) The surviving spouse or surviving child or children of a retired member of the State Police Retirement System who received an accidental disability retirement allowance in accordance with subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10), or subsection a. thereof provided that the documentation required pursuant to subsection e. is submitted, shall receive the accidental death benefits as set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14), upon the submission to the board of trustees of proper proofs of the death of that retiree, notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation to the contrary. Notwithstanding the provision of subsection c. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) or any other provision of law to the contrary, the lump sum benefit of 3 ½ times final compensation in subsection e. of section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) shall apply.
- (2) The surviving spouse or surviving child or children, or any legal guardian of the surviving child or children, shall be eligible to receive the accidental death benefits as set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14), upon the submission to the board of trustees of proper proofs of the death of the member or retiree, notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation to the contrary, if the spouse, child, children, or guardian submits sufficient documentation that the deceased member or retiree would have qualified for an accidental disability retirement allowance, or a recalculation of the service retirement allowance or ordinary disability retirement allowance, in accordance with subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10), provided that the member or retiree filed before death the written and sworn statement required by that subsection e. indicating the dates and locations of service. The board of trustees shall require the submission of such information as the deceased member or retiree would have been required to submit in accordance with subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) and such other information as the board of trustees may deem necessary to make a determination. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the lump sum benefit of 3 ½ times final compensation in subsection e. of section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) shall apply.
- (3) Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection shall apply only if the member's or retiree's death was the result of a qualifying condition or impairment of health as defined in subsection e. of

section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) which the medical board determines to be caused by participation in World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations.

- b. (1) The surviving spouse of a deceased retired member who is receiving a pension in accordance with section 25 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-25) due to the death of the retired member on or before July 8, 2019 shall be eligible to apply to the board of trustees and, upon approval of the application by the board, shall receive the accidental death benefits set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) if the surviving spouse submits sufficient documentation that the deceased retiree would have qualified for a recalculation of the retiree's service retirement allowance or ordinary disability retirement allowance in accordance with subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) but for the fact that the recalculation was not available to the retiree prior to the retiree's death.
- (2) A surviving spouse who received the pension in accordance with section 25 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-25), but whose eligibility for that pension was terminated because the surviving spouse no longer met the definition of "surviving spouse" as set forth in section 3 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-3), shall be eligible to apply to the board of trustees and, upon approval of the application by the board, shall receive the accidental death benefits set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) under the same terms and conditions and pursuant to the same requirements as set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection. If the former spouse receives the accidental death benefits as set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14), a surviving child or children who are receiving benefits pursuant section 25 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-25) shall no longer be eligible to receive those benefits.
- (3) If there is no surviving spouse or no former surviving spouse because the spouse has died or has declined in writing to apply pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the surviving child or surviving children who are receiving benefits in accordance with section 25 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-25) on the effective date of this act, P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), or any legal guardian of the child or children, may submit the application and receive the benefits set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) under the same terms and conditions and pursuant to the same requirements as set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection.
- (4) The board of trustees shall provide written notification to each surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, and surviving child, and any legal guardian of a surviving child, of the provisions of this subsection, within 30 days after the effective date of this act.
- (5) In order to receive the benefit provided in this subsection, a surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, or surviving child, or

any legal guardian of the surviving child, shall submit an application not later than two years after the effective of this act.

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- (6) The board of trustees shall require the surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, or surviving child, or any legal guardian of the surviving child, to submit such information as the deceased member or retiree would have been required to submit in accordance with subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) and such other information as the board of trustees may deem necessary to review the application and make a determination. Paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of this subsection shall apply only if the retiree's death was the result of a qualifying condition or impairment of health as defined in subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) which the medical board determines to be caused by participation in World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations.
- (7) Upon approval of an application, the surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, or surviving child or children, or any legal guardian of the surviving child or children, shall receive the annual payments of the accidental death benefit, and the lump sum death benefit payment, as set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14). The annual benefit payments shall apply only for payments made after the effective date of this act. No surviving spouse or former surviving spouse or surviving child, or any legal guardian of the surviving child, shall be granted a retroactive payment based upon the difference between the benefit the person would have received if the benefit pursuant to this subsection had been applicable on the date of death of the retiree and the benefit that the person has received from that date of death to the effective date of this act. The lump sum benefit paid to a beneficiary shall be and shall not exceed 3 ½ times the retiree's final compensation in total regardless of the provision of law under which the lump sum death benefit was paid.
- (8) The health care benefit premiums to be paid by the State in accordance with subsection h. of section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) shall apply if the surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, or surviving child or children are still receiving coverage from the employer-sponsored health insurance program or, if that coverage was terminated, can again become eligible for such coverage. If such coverage is no longer available, the surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, or surviving child or children shall be eligible to enroll in the State Health Benefits Program, P.L.1961, c.49 (C.52:14-17.25 et seq.), notwithstanding any provision thereof to the contrary.
- c. This act, P.L., c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill), shall be known and may be cited as the Trooper I Robert Nagle and Staff Sergeant Bryan McCoy 911 First Responders Act.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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This bill would provide accidental death benefits to a surviving spouse or surviving child of a deceased member or retiree of the State Police Retirement System (SPRS) if the member or retiree participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operation and subsequently the member's or retiree's health was impaired as a result of that participation and the member or retiree died of a qualifying illness or disease contracted from that

13 participation.

> A recently enacted law, P.L.2019, c.157, enacted on July 8, 2019, provides an accidental disability retirement to such SPRS members or retirees under certain circumstances. This bill also provides the accidental death benefits to the surviving spouses or surviving children of an SPRS retiree who died before July 8, 2019 and thus did not have available the option to receive the accidental disability retirement provided by P.L.2019, c.89. The bill provides accidental death benefits to a surviving spouse and surviving children if the retiree participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operation and subsequently died in retirement before July 8, 2019 of a qualifying illness or disease contracted from that participation.

> The accidental death benefits provide the surviving spouse with an annual payment of 70% of the member's final compensation, with certain annual adjustments that may be available to increase that final compensation over a certain period of time. If there is no surviving spouse, the surviving children receive the same annual payment. In addition, the surviving spouse or surviving children receive 3.5 times the retiree's final compensation as a lump sum payment regardless of the retiree's age at the time of death, and the State will pay the entire premium for the health care benefits coverage for the retiree's surviving spouse and surviving children. This benefit does not end when the surviving spouse remarries.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1676

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 17, 2021

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1676, with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill would provide accidental death benefits to a surviving spouse or surviving child under the State Police Retirement System (SPRS) if the deceased spouse or parent participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operation and had subsequent impairment of health as a result of that participation and died of a qualifying illness or disease contracted from that participation.

A recently enacted law, P.L.2019, c.157, enacted on July 8, 2019, provides an accidental disability retirement to such SPRS members or retirees under certain circumstances. Deceased members or retirees who died prior to the implementation of that law could not benefit from its passage.

This current bill provides the accidental death benefits to the surviving spouses or surviving children of an SPRS retiree who died before July 8, 2019 and thus did not have available the option to apply for the accidental disability retirement provided by P.L.2019, c.157. The bill provides accidental death benefits to a surviving spouse and surviving children if the retiree participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operation and subsequently died in retirement before July 8, 2019 of a qualifying illness or disease contracted from that participation.

The accidental death benefits provide the surviving spouse with an annual payment of 70% of the member's final compensation, with certain annual adjustments that may be available to increase that final compensation over a certain period of time. If there is no surviving spouse, the surviving children receive the same annual payment. In addition, the surviving spouse or surviving children receive 3.5 times the retiree's final compensation as a lump sum payment regardless of the retiree's age at the time of death, and the State will pay the entire premium for the health care benefits coverage for the retiree's surviving spouse and surviving children. This benefit does not end when the surviving spouse remarries.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 1676 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3208 (1R), which also was reported by the committee on this date.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2020-2021 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

There amendment provides that the surviving spouse, child, or children of a retired member of the SPRS who was receiving an accidental disability retirement allowance and died before July 8, 2019 would receive the accidental death benefit under the circumstances specified in the bill.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill will increase the annual accidental death benefit by 40 percent from 50 percent of final compensation to 70 percent for certain surviving spouses, with a greater increase for surviving children of an SPRS member who died as a result of their participation in the 9/11 World Trade Center (WTC) rescue and recovery operation. The bill will result in an unfunded liability to the SPRS and increase the contributions required to be paid by the State. The surviving spouse and the surviving children will also receive State-paid health care benefits.

The aggregate cost increase cannot be estimated because it will depend on the number of surviving spouses or surviving children of SPRS who will become eligible for the increased annual benefits and the health care benefits coverage, which are unknown at this time.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1676 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 25, 2021

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Provides accidental death benefits in certain circumstances to

surviving spouse and surviving child of SPRS member or retiree who participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup

operations.

Type of Impact: Expenditure Increase to the State General Fund.

Agencies Affected: Department of the Treasury, Division of Pensions and Benefits.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	Year 3
State Cost Increase		Indeterminate	

- This bill will increase the annual accidental death benefit by 40 percent from 50 percent of final compensation to 70 percent for certain surviving spouses, with a greater increase for surviving children of an SPRS member who died as a result of their participation in the 9/11 World Trade Center (WTC) rescue and recovery operation. The bill will result in an unfunded liability to the SPRS and increase the contributions required to be paid by the State. The surviving spouse and the surviving children will also receive State-paid health care benefits.
- The aggregate cost increase cannot be estimated because it will depend on the number of surviving spouses or surviving children of SPRS who will become eligible for the increased annual benefits and the health care benefits coverage, which are unknown at this time.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill would provide accidental death benefits to a surviving spouse or surviving child under the SPRS if the deceased spouse or parent participated in 9/11 World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup operation and had subsequent impairment of health as a result of that participation and died of a qualifying illness or disease contracted from that participation.



A recently enacted law, P.L.2019, c.157, enacted on July 8, 2019, provides an accidental disability retirement to such SPRS members or retirees under certain circumstances. Deceased members or retirees who died prior to the implementation of that law could not benefit from its passage.

The bill provides the accidental death benefits to the surviving spouses or surviving children of an SPRS retiree who died before July 8, 2019 and thus did not have available the option to apply for the accidental disability retirement provided by P.L.2019, c.157. The bill provides accidental death benefits to a surviving spouse and surviving children if the retiree participated in 9/11 WTC rescue, recovery, or cleanup operation and subsequently died in retirement before July 8, 2019 of a qualifying illness or disease contracted from that participation.

The accidental death benefits provide the surviving spouse with an annual payment of 70 percent of the member's final compensation, with certain annual adjustments that may be available to increase that final compensation over a certain period of time. If there is no surviving spouse, the surviving children receive the same annual payment. In addition, the surviving spouse or surviving children receive 3.5 times the retiree's final compensation as a lump sum payment regardless of the retiree's age at the time of death, and the State will pay the entire premium for the health care benefits coverage for the retiree's surviving spouse and surviving children. This benefit does not end when the surviving spouse remarries.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

This bill will increase the annual accidental death benefit by 40 percent from 50 percent of final compensation to 70 percent for certain surviving spouses, with a greater increase for surviving children of an SPRS member who died as a result of their participation in the 9/11 WTC rescue and recovery operation. The bill will result in an unfunded liability to the SPRS and increase the contributions required to be paid by the State. The surviving spouse and the surviving children will also receive State-paid health care benefits. The aggregate cost increase cannot be estimated because it will depend on the number of surviving spouses or surviving children of SPRS who will become eligible for the annual benefit provided and the cost of the health care benefits coverage, which are unknown at this time.

Section: State Government

Analyst: Kimberly M. Clemmensen

Lead Fiscal Analyst

Approved: Thomas Koenig

Assistant Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).