

40A:14-7.1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 40A:14-7.1 (Arson investigation units - training course)

LAWS OF: 1983

CHAPTER: 82

Bill No: S1655

Sponsor(s): Caufield and O'Connor

Date Introduced: Sept. 16, 1982

Committee: Assembly: Judiciary, Law, Public Safety & Defense

Senate: Law, Public Safety & Defense

Amended during passage: /// No

Date of Passage: Assembly: Jan. 31, 1983

Senate: Nov. 8, 1982

Date of Approval: March 2, 1983

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes //

Committee statement: Assembly Yes //

Senate Yes // (not attached since identical to Assembly Committee statement)

Fiscal Note: /// No

Veto Message: /// No

Message on Signing: YES X/

Following were printed:

Reports: /// No

Hearings: /// No

For background see:

- 974.90 New Jersey. Arson Task Force.
- C929 Development of a New Jersey
- 1979c strategy for arson control. Trenton, 1979.

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SENATE, No. 1655

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 16, 1982

By Senators CAUFIELD and O'CONNOR

Referred to Committee on Law, Public Safety and Defense

AN ACT concerning arson investigation units and amending P. L.
1981, c. 409.

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

1 1. Section 1 of P. L. 1981, c. 409 (C. 40A:14-7.1) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 1. a. The governing body of any municipality which has esta-
4 blished a paid or part-paid fire department or force may, by ordi-
5 nance, create an arson investigation unit within the fire department
6 or force and provide for the maintenance, regulation and control
7 thereof. The arson investigation unit shall be responsible for
8 conducting investigations of arson, suspicious fires or explosions
9 within the municipality.

10 b. Only paid members of a paid or part-paid fire department or
11 force may be assigned to an arson investigation unit created pur-
12 suant to this section. Before any member shall be assigned to an
13 arson investigation unit, he shall have successfully completed [a
14 basic training course for police officers at a school] *an appropriate*
15 *course of training* approved by the Police Training Commission
16 and an arson investigation training course approved by the Depart-
17 ment of Law and Public Safety.

18 c. Any member of a fire department or force who is assigned to
19 an arson investigation unit pursuant to this section shall attend
20 and successfully complete in-service training programs as required
21 by the Division of Criminal Justice.

**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 printed in italics thus is new matter.**

22 d. Any member of a fire department or force who is assigned
23 full-time to an arson investigative unit pursuant to this section shall
24 have the same powers and authority of police officers within the
25 municipality while engaged in the actual performance of arson
26 investigation duties.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill modifies the training requirements of members of a fire department or force assigned to an arson investigation unit. Currently, a member has to complete a basic training course for police officers, much of the training of which would not be necessary for a member of an arson investigation unit. This bill permits the Police Training Commission to design a course specifically for members of arson investigation units and omit those areas of training not relevant to arson investigations.

51655 (1982)

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY, LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND
DEFENSE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1655

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 20, 1983

This bill would modify training requirements for members of fire departments who are assigned to arson investigation units.

Under current law, before a person can become a member of an arson investigation unit, he must successfully complete an arson investigation course approved by the Department of Law and Public Safety and a basic training course for police officers at a school approved by the Police Training Commission.

Though members of arson investigation units have the same power and authority as police officers within their municipalities while engaged in the duties of arson investigation, much of the training provided by the required, basic, police training course is not relevant to arson investigation.

This bill would permit the Police Training Commission to establish a course geared to the specific needs of arson investigators.

SENATE LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND DEFENSE
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 1655

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 18, 1982

This bill would modify training requirements for members of fire departments who are assigned to arson investigation units.

Under current law, before a person can become a member of an arson investigation unit, he must successfully complete an arson investigation course approved by the Department of Law and Public Safety and a basic training course for police officers at a school approved by the Police Training Commission.

Though members of arson investigation units have the same power and authority as police officers within their municipalities while engaged in the duties of arson investigation, much of the training provided by the required, basic, police training course is not relevant to arson investigation.

This bill would permit the Police Training Commission to establish a course geared to the specific needs of arson investigators.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

CONTACT: PAUL WOLCOTT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1983

Governor Thomas H. Kean has signed the following bills:

S-1479, sponsored by State Senator Edward T. O'Connor, Jr., (Hudson), which increases from 2 percent to 5 percent the aggregate amount of assets a domestic property and casualty insurer can invest in investments not specifically permitted under New Jersey law, and permits the insurer to maintain their investment securities physically outside the State.

S-1655, sponsored by State Senator John P. Caufield, (D-Essex), which requires the Police Training Commission to design a course of training specifically for members of arson investigation units in fire departments.

A-185, sponsored by Assemblyman Wayne R. Bryant, (D-Camden), which requires 72 hours advance public notice of the closing of any State, county or municipal road that will be closed for more than 48 hours.

A-72, sponsored by Assemblyman Robert P. Hollenbeck, (D-Bergen), which prohibits the retail sale of items used in home construction which violate the Uniform Construction Code.

A-275, sponsored by Assemblyman William E. Flynn, (D-Middlesex), which requires the issuance of photo-identification cards to adult recipients of aid to families with dependent children as a condition of receiving such aid.

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