

## FIRE DISTRICTS

### **40A:14-70. Fire district designation; procedure; election of commissioners**

In any municipality not having a paid or part-paid fire department and force, the governing body, upon application of at least 5% of the registered voters or 20 legal voters, whichever is the greater, shall consider the designation of a fire district. Upon receipt of the application, the governing body shall fix a time and place for a hearing thereon. The municipal clerk shall advertise the notice of the hearing in a newspaper circulating in the county wherein the municipality is located at least once and not less than 10 days prior to the hearing. After the hearing the governing body shall determine the question of designation of a fire district. If the governing body decides that the designation of a fire district is appropriate, it, by ordinance, shall designate a territorial location or locations for use as a fire district or fire districts and, by resolution, provide for the election of a board of fire commissioners for the district or each district, to consist of five persons, residents therein, and specify the date, time and place for the election of the first board.

The district or each district shall be assigned a number and the commissioners thereof and their successors shall be a body corporate, to be known as "the commissioners of fire district No. . . . . in . . . . . (name of municipality), county of . . . . . (name of county)." The said body corporate shall have the power to acquire, hold, lease, sell or otherwise convey in its corporate name such real and personal property as the purposes of the corporation shall require. All sales and leases of real and personal property shall be in accordance with the provisions of section 13 or 14, as appropriate, of the "Local Lands and Buildings Law, " P.L. 1971, c.199 (C.40A:12-13 or 40A:12-14). Said body corporate may adopt and use a corporate seal, sue or be sued and shall have such powers, duties and functions as are usual and necessary for said purposes.

On the date and at the time and place specified for the election of the first board the clerk of the municipality shall conduct the election and shall preside at the meeting until the board shall have been elected.

At the first meeting of a newly elected board of fire commissioners of a district the board shall choose a chairman and fix the place for the annual election. The members of the board shall divide themselves by lot into three classes: the first to consist of two members whose terms shall expire at 12 o'clock noon on the first Tuesday in March of the year following the year in which the first board is elected; the second, two members whose terms shall expire at 12 o'clock noon on the first Tuesday in March of the second year following that year; and the third, one member whose term shall expire at 12 o'clock noon on the first Tuesday in March of the third year following that year. The terms of fire commissioners in each class, other than members of the first board, shall expire at 12 o'clock noon on the first Tuesday in March of the third year following the year in which they were elected.

Any vacancy in the membership shall be filled by the remaining members until the next succeeding annual election, at which time a resident of the district shall be elected for the unexpired term.

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Amended 1979, c.325, s.1; 1979, c.381, s.1; 1980, c.105, s.10; 1985, c.288, s.1; 1991, c.223, s.1.

### **40A:14-70.1. Establishment of a volunteer fire company within a fire district; contract with volunteer fire company outside fire district**

a. Any persons desiring to form a volunteer fire company to be located within or otherwise servicing the area encompassing a fire district or other type of volunteer organization which has as its objective the prevention of fires or regulation of fire hazards to life and property therein shall first present to the board of fire commissioners a written application for the organization of such company. Such application shall be in the form of a duly verified petition signed by them stating the kind of company which they desire to organize, the name or title thereof, the number and names of the proposed members thereof, and their places of residence. The board of fire commissioners, after considering such application and approving the members of the proposed company, may by resolution grant the petition and constitute such applicants a volunteer fire company of the district.

b. The board of fire commissioners of a fire district not having a paid or part-paid fire department and force may contract with a volunteer fire company or companies for the purpose of extinguishing fires, upon those terms and conditions as shall be deemed proper. The members of the company shall be under the supervision and control of the board of fire commissioners and in performing fire duty shall be deemed to be exercising a governmental function; however, the appointment or election of the chief of the volunteer fire company shall remain the prerogative of the membership of the fire company as set forth in the company's certificate of incorporation or bylaws.

Amended 1989, c.285, s.2.

### **40A:14-71. Nominating petitions**

Candidates for membership on the board shall be nominated by verified petitions. Any such petition shall be in writing, addressed to the municipal clerk or the clerk of the board, as the case may be, stating that the signers thereof are qualified voters and residents in the district and requesting that the name of the candidate be placed on the official ballot. The petition shall state the residence of the candidate and certify his qualification for membership. The candidate's consent to his nomination shall be annexed to the petition and shall constitute his agreement to serve in the event of his election. The petition shall contain the name of only one candidate, but several petitions may nominate the same person. Each petition shall be signed by not less than 10 qualified voters and shall be filed at least 28 days before the date of the election.

Any form of a petition of nomination which is provided to candidates by the Secretary of State, the county clerk, or the municipal clerk shall contain the following notice:

"Notice: All candidates are required by law to comply with the provisions of "The New

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Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act, ' P.L. 1973, c. 83 (C. 19:44A-1 et seq.). For further information please call (insert telephone number of the Election Law Enforcement Commission)."

If a petition is found to be defective, either in form or substance, the municipal clerk or the clerk of the board, as the case may be, shall forthwith notify the candidate to cause it to be corrected before the petition is given consideration.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971. Amended by L. 1973, c. 235, § 1, eff. Oct. 24, 1973; L. 1985, c. 288, § 2.

### **40A:14-72. Annual fire district elections**

An election shall be held annually on the third Saturday in February in each established fire district for the election of members of the board according to the expiration of terms. The initial election for a newly created fire district may take place on another date as a governing body may specify under N.J.S. 40A:14-70, but the annual election thereafter shall be held on the third Saturday in February. The place of the election shall be determined by the board and a notice thereof, and of the closing date for the filing with the clerk of the board of petitions of nomination for membership on the board, shall be published at least once in a newspaper circulating in the district, at least six weeks prior to the date fixed for the election. Fire districts located in the same municipality may combine the publication of their notices of election. For the purpose of this section, "notices of election" shall include the notices required to be published under section 7 of P.L. 1953, c.211 (C.19:57-7).

The legal voters thereat shall determine the amount of money to be raised for the ensuing year and determine such other matters as may be required.

Amended 1973, c.25, s.1; 1973, c.235, s.2; 1985, c.288, s.3; 1994, c.181.

### **40A:14-73. Form of ballot**

The ballots shall be written or printed on opaque paper, uniform in size and quality.

Each ballot shall have at the top, a coupon, at least one inch wide extending across the ballot above a perforated line. The coupons shall be numbered consecutively. The coupon shall contain the following statements: "To be torn off by the clerk" and "Fold to this line." Below the perforated line shall be printed or written, "Fire district election ballot, " then the official designation of the fire district and polling place and date of the election. It shall bear the signature or facsimile signature of the municipal clerk, or the clerk of the board of fire commissioners, as the case may be. The heading shall be set apart from the body of the ballot by a marked-off space. In said space, the voters shall be instructed how to indicate their choice of candidates and the number to be voted upon as follows: "To vote for any person whose name appears on this ballot mark a cross (X),

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plus (+) or check ( ) in ink or pencil in the place or square at the left of the name of such person." Underneath these instructions shall be directions as to the number of candidates to be voted for and the name of each qualified candidate, without grouping, to be placed according to the alphabetical order of their surnames.

The ballot shall be substantially as follows:

No.....

To be torn off by the Judge of Election.

Fold to this line.

.....  
**FIRE DISTRICT ELECTION BALLOT**  
Fire District No. 1

Township of Webster, Warren County

Date.....

Polling District No. 1  
Unexcelled Fire House.

John Henry Doe,  
Clerk.

To vote for any person whose name appears on this ballot mark a cross (X), plus (+) or check ( ) mark with ink or pencil in the place or square at the left of the name of such person.

For membership to Board of Water Commissioner--

Full Term.

Vote for Two.

[ ] Rutherford B. Fallon.

[ ] William F. Seibel.

[ ] James A. Stephens.

[ ] Thomas Templeton.

[ ]

[ ]

For membership to Board of Water Commissioners—

Unexpired One-Year Term.

Vote for One.

[ ] Francis R. Loori.

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[ ] Arthur H. Patterson.  
[ ]

using as much of the form as may be applicable to the current fire district election and extending the same to provide for cases not herein specified.

Amended 1994, c.77, s.20.

### **40A:14-74. Elections; notice; publication; eligibility of voters**

The municipal clerk or the clerk of the board of fire commissioners, as the case may be, shall cause a further notice of the holding of such election to be published at least once not later than 1 week prior thereto in a newspaper circulating in said fire district.

At least 7 days prior to the election the municipal clerk or the clerk of the board, as the case may be, shall obtain the registry list for the municipality or municipalities and election districts comprised within such fire district for the preceding general election. No person shall be permitted to vote at the election unless his name appears on the registry list or he shall have become of legal age and is otherwise qualified and shall file an application to vote with the clerk at least 2 days prior thereto.

P. L.1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971. Amended by L.1973, c. 25, § 2, eff. Feb. 16, 1973.

### **40A:14-75. Use of voting machines**

The superintendent of elections of any county having a superintendent of elections or the county board of elections of any county not having a superintendent of elections, may upon application of the board of commissioners of any fire district, loan or rent to said board, one or more voting machines owned by the county, for a period of time which does not conflict with any State, county, municipal or school district election, for the purpose of conducting a fire district election as required by law. The loan or rental of a voting machine or machines for this purpose shall be upon such terms and conditions as may be determined by the board of chosen freeholders of the county.

In any case in which voting machines are made available for such purpose, the use thereof for any fire district election shall be held as provided herein.

P.L 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971.

### **40A:14-76. Polls; hours**

Upon petition of 25 or more voters, filed with the clerk of the board at least 20 days prior to the date of any election, after the first election, the board of fire commissioners, by resolution, may divide the fire district into 2 or more polling places.

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The polls for any election shall be opened between the hours of 2:00 and 9:00 P.M., but the board may designate a later closing hour on the same day. The board shall furnish the necessary books for the entries of the names and addresses of the voters.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971.

### **40A:14-77. Manner of conducting elections**

Before the opening of the polls a public proclamation shall be made by the chairman of the board or the clerk or his or their representative as to the purpose of the voting. Two tellers for each polling place shall be appointed by the chairman or clerk and thereupon the polls shall be opened and the balloting shall continue without recess until the closing of the polls. Immediately after the close of the polls the clerk and tellers shall forthwith canvass the vote and certify the results. The clerk shall publicly announce the results.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971.

### **40A:14-78. Appropriation to be voted upon, form of question**

Any appropriation or other matter to be voted upon at such election shall be in the form of a question, placed upon the ballot immediately following the names of the candidates for members of the board of fire commissioners, in substantially the following form:

YES. (Question to be voted on)  
NO.

The voter shall indicate his approval or opposition by making a cross (X), plus (+) or check ( ) mark in ink or pencil in the appropriate square.

Amended 1994, c.77, s.21.

### **40A:14-78.1. Fire district budget; time of introduction; public hearing; notice**

The fire commissioners of any fire district shall introduce and approve the annual budget not later than 60 days prior to the annual election held pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:14-72. The budget shall be introduced in writing at a meeting of the fire commissioners. Approval thereof shall constitute a first reading which may be by title, and the fire commissioners shall at that time fix the time and place for the holding of a public hearing upon the budget. Notice of the date, time, place and purpose of such public hearing, and of the time and place at which a copy of the approved budget shall be available to each person requesting it during the week preceding such public hearing, shall be advertised at least 10 days prior to such hearing in a newspaper having substantial circulation in the fire district.

P.L. 1979, c. 453, § 5.

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### **40A:14-78.2. Adoption of fire district budget; public hearing**

No fire district budget shall be adopted until a public hearing has been held thereon and taxpayers of the district and all persons having an interest therein shall have been given an opportunity to present objections. Such hearing shall be held not less than 28 days after approval of the budget.

The public hearing shall be held at the time and place specified in the notice, but may be adjourned from time to time until the hearing is closed.

The budget shall be read at the public hearing in full, or it may be read by its title, if:

a. At least 1 week prior to the date of the hearing, a complete copy of the approved budget shall have been posted in such public place as notices are usually posted in the district, and is made available to each person requesting a copy during said week and during the public hearing; and,

b. The fire commissioners shall, by resolution passed by not less than a majority of the full membership, determine that the budget shall be read by its title and declare that the conditions set forth in subsection a. of this section have been met.

After closing the hearing, the fire commissioners may, by a vote of not less than a majority of the full membership, adopt the budget by title without amendments, or may approve amendments as provided in section 7 of this act.

P.L. 1979, c. 453, § 6.

### **40A:14-78.3. Amendments; hearing; notice**

The fire commissioners may amend the budget during or after the public hearing. All amendments shall be read in full.

No amendment shall be effective until the taxpayers of the district and all persons having an interest therein shall have been granted a public hearing thereon, if such amendment shall:

a. Add a new item of operating appropriations in an amount in excess of 1% of the total amount of operating appropriations as stated in the approved budget;

b. Increase or decrease any item of operating appropriations by more than 10%; or,

c. Increase the amount to be raised by taxes by more than 5%.

Notice of hearing on any amendment shall be advertised at least 3 days before the date set therefor. Such amendment shall be read in full at such hearing and before adoption.

P.L. 1979, c. 453, § 7.

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### **40A:14-78.4. Adoption of budget; time; advertisement**

The fire district budget shall be adopted, by a vote of a majority of the full membership of the fire commissioners, not later than 25 days prior to the annual election. The adopted budget shall be advertised after adoption. The advertisement shall contain a copy of the budget and shall be published at least once in a newspaper circulating in the fire district at least 7 days prior to the annual election.

P.L. 1979, c. 453, § 8.

### **40A:14-78.5. Affirmative vote by majority of legal voters for final adoption; certification of amount to assessor; fixing budget after negative vote**

a. If at the annual election held pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:14-72 the question of finally adopting the budget is voted affirmatively upon by a majority of the legal voters voting in the election, the budget shall be considered finally adopted, and the board of fire commissioners shall certify the amount to be raised by taxation to support the district budget to the assessor of the municipality, pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:14-79.

b. If at the annual election the question of finally adopting the budget is voted negatively upon by a majority of the legal voters voting in the election, the governing body of the municipality in which the fire district is located shall, by resolution of a majority of its full membership, within 30 days after the annual election and after a public hearing for which the legal voters of the fire district shall be given 5 days' advertised notice, and at which any interested person shall be heard, fix an annual budget for the fire district. The amount of each appropriation section of the budget so fixed shall not exceed the amount for each as previously voted upon at the annual election, except the appropriation for debt service which shall be included in the amount that is required to be paid. The governing body shall certify the amount to be raised by taxation to support the district budget as set forth in the final budget, to the assessor of the municipality, pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:14-79.

P.L. 1979, c. 453, § 9. Amended by L.1982, c. 174, § 1, eff. Nov. 12, 1982.

### **40A:14-78.6. Separate sections for fire district budget**

The fire district budget shall provide for separate sections for:

- a. Operating appropriations:
  - (1) Current operating expenses; and
  - (2) Amounts necessary to fund any deficit from the preceding budget year.

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b. Capital appropriations: Amounts necessary in the current budget year to fund or meet obligations incurred for capital purposes pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:14-84, N.J.S. 40A:14-85 and N.J.S. 40A:14-87, itemized according to purpose.

c. Total appropriations: The sum of a. and b. above.

P.L. 1979, c. 453, § 10.

### **40A:14-78.7. Separate items in operating appropriations section**

The operating appropriations section of the fire district budget shall set forth separate items for administration, operation and maintenance of each office or agency of the fire district. Each paid position established pursuant to this act shall be set forth along with the compensation to be paid therefore. The total amount to be appropriated for the purposes set forth in section 4 of this act shall be stated separately.

P.L. 1979, c. 453, § 11.

### **40A:14-78.8. Separate items in fire district budget**

The fire district budget shall provide for separate items for:

a. Surplus, which shall not exceed the amount of surplus held in cash or quick assets at the beginning of the budget year;

b. Miscellaneous revenues, which shall be such amounts as may reasonably be expected to be realized in cash during the budget year from known and regular sources, or from sources reasonably capable of anticipating, including amounts expected to be received from municipalities appropriating money for fire district purposes, but not including revenues from taxes to be levied to support the district budget; and,

c. Amount to be raised by taxation to support the district budget, which shall be the amount to be certified to the assessor of the municipality to be assessed against the taxable property in the district pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:14-79. Such amount shall be equal to the amount of the total appropriations set forth in the budget minus the total amount of surplus and miscellaneous revenues set forth in the budget.

P.L. 1979, c. 453, § 12.

### **40A:14-78.9. Budget item transfers**

a. Whenever it shall become necessary during the last two months of the fiscal year to expend amounts in excess of those appropriations specified in the various line items of the operating appropriations section of the annual budget and there shall be excess appropriations in other line items of the operating appropriations section, the board of fire commissioners of the fire district may, by resolution setting forth the facts, adopted by

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not less than 2/3 vote of the full membership thereof, transfer the amount of the excess to those appropriations deemed to be insufficient.

b. No transfers may be made under this section from appropriations for:

- (1) Contingent expenses,
- (2) Deferred charges,
- (3) Cash deficit of preceding year,
- (4) Down payments,
- (5) Capital improvements,
- (6) Interest and redemption charges.

P.L. 1985, c. 288, § 5, eff. Aug. 14, 1985.

### **40A:14-78.10. Reserve item transfers**

a. If, during the first two months of any fiscal year, the amount of any appropriation reserve in any line item of the operating appropriations section of the budget for the immediately preceding fiscal year is insufficient to pay the claims authorized or incurred during the preceding year, and there shall be an excess in any appropriation reserve in another line item of the operating appropriations section, the board of fire commissioners of any fire district may, by resolution adopted by not less than a 2/3 vote of the full membership thereof, transfer the amount of the excess to the appropriation reserve deemed to be insufficient or for which no reserve was provided.

b. No transfers may be made under this section from appropriation reserves for:

- (1) Contingent expenses,
- (2) Down payments,
- (3) Capital improvements.

P.L. 1985, c. 288, § 6, eff. Aug. 14, 1985.

### **40A:14-78.11. Emergency appropriations**

A fire district may make emergency appropriations, after the adoption of a budget approved by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services pursuant to P.L. 1983, c. 313 (C. 40A:5A-1 et seq.), for a purpose which is not foreseen at the time of the adoption thereof, or for which adequate provision was not made therein. This

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appropriation shall be made only to meet a pressing need for public expenditure to protect or promote the public health, safety, morals or welfare.

P.L. 1985, c. 288, § 7, eff. Aug. 14, 1985.

### **40A:14-78.12. 3% limit**

An emergency appropriation, together with all prior emergency appropriations made during the same year, shall not exceed 3% of the total of current operating appropriations made in the budget adopted for that year.

P.L. 1985, c. 288, § 8, eff. Aug. 14, 1985.

### **40A:14-78.13. Emergency appropriation resolution**

Emergency appropriations shall be made as follows:

- a. The board of fire commissioners of any fire district shall, by resolution adopted by not less than 2/3 of its full membership, declare that an emergency exists requiring a supplementary appropriation.
- b. The resolution shall be in the form and content to be prescribed by the municipal governing body and shall set out the nature of the emergency in full.
- c. A copy of the resolution shall be filed immediately with the governing body.
- d. The resolution shall not take effect until the municipal governing body shall by a vote of not less than 2/3 of its full membership approve the emergency appropriation and certify its approval to the fire district.

P.L. 1985, c. 288, § 9, eff. Aug. 14, 1985.

### **40A:14-78.14. Deferred charge**

The total amount of all emergency appropriations shall be provided in full by the fire district as a deferred charge in the budget of the next succeeding fiscal year. In the event that the budget is not approved by the voters, that deferred charge shall remain in the budget for the fire district to be adopted by the municipal governing body pursuant to the law.

P.L. 1985, c. 288, § 10, eff. Aug. 14, 1985.

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### **40A:14-78.15. Financing of emergency appropriation**

A fire district may finance any emergency appropriation from the district's available surplus funds, or may borrow money for a period of time not in excess of one year and execute the necessary evidences of indebtedness.

P.L. 1985, c. 288, § 11, eff. Aug. 14, 1985.

### **40A:14-78.16. Fiscal year**

Commencing January 1, 1986 all fire district fiscal years shall begin on January 1 and end December 31. Any fire district with a fiscal year commencing at any time during 1985, but ending subsequent to December 31, 1985, shall adopt a budget pursuant to law which ends December 31, 1985, notwithstanding that such requirement results in a fiscal year of less than 12 full calendar months of duration. Any budget heretofore adopted for a fiscal year commencing at any time during 1985 but ending subsequent to December 31, 1985 shall be amended such that the fiscal year to which it pertains shall terminate on December 31, 1985, notwithstanding that such action results in a fiscal year of less than 12 full calendar months.

P.L. 1985, c. 288, § 12, eff. Aug. 14, 1985.

### **40A:14-78.17. Temporary budget**

A fire district may and, if any contracts, commitments or payments are to be made prior to the adoption of the budget, shall, by resolution adopted prior to January 15, adopt a temporary budget to make appropriations to provide for the period between the beginning of the fiscal year and the adoption of the budget.

The total of the appropriations so made shall not exceed 14% of the total of the appropriations made for all purposes in the budget for the preceding fiscal year, excluding, in both instances, appropriations made for interest and debt redemption charges and capital improvements.

Nothing herein contained shall prevent or relieve the fire district from making appropriations for all interest and debt redemption charges maturing during the fiscal year, at any time prior to the date of the adoption of the budget.

P.L. 1985, c. 288, § 13, eff. Aug. 14, 1985.

### **40A:14-79. Tax assessment**

Upon proper certification pursuant to section 9 of P.L. 1979, c. 453 (C. 40A:14-78.5), the assessor of the municipality in which the fire district is situate shall assess the amount to

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be raised by taxation to support the district budget against the taxable property therein, in the same manner as municipal taxes are assessed and the said amount shall be assessed, levied and collected at the same time and in the same manner as other municipal taxes.

The collector or treasurer of the municipality in which said district is situate shall pay over all moneys so assessed to the treasurer or custodian of funds of said fire district as follows: on or before April 1, an amount equaling 21.25% of all moneys so assessed; on or before July 1, an amount equaling 22.5% of all moneys so assessed; on or before October 1, an amount equaling 25% of all moneys so assessed; and on or before December 31, an amount equaling the difference between the total of all moneys so assessed and the total amount of such moneys previously paid over, to be held and expended for the purpose of providing and maintaining means for extinguishing fires in such district.

Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the municipal governing body may authorize, in the cash management plan adopted by it pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:5-14, a schedule of payments of fire district moneys by which an amount greater than required on any of the first three payment dates cited herein may be paid over. The municipal governing body and board of fire commissioners may, by concurrent resolution, adopt a schedule of payments of fire district moneys by which an amount less than required on any of the first three payment dates cited herein may be paid over. Such resolution shall be included in the cash management plan adopted by the municipal governing body pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:5-14.

The commissioners may also pay back, or cause to be paid back to such municipality, any funds or any part thereof paid to the treasurer or custodian of funds of such fire district by the collector or treasurer of the municipality, representing taxes levied for fire district purposes but not actually collected in cash by said collector or treasurer.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971. Amended by L. 1979, c. 453, § 14; L. 1985, c. 288, § 4, eff. Aug. 14, 1985.

### **40A:14-80. Borrowing money in anticipation of revenue**

The commissioners of any fire district, by resolution, may borrow after March 1 and before December 31 following, a sum not to exceed the amount appropriated at the preceding annual election held in the district, for current expenses and necessary repairs to fire apparatus and fire houses within the district, less any sums received from the collector of taxes or municipal treasurer on account of such appropriation. They may execute evidences of such indebtedness and pay the amount so borrowed, together with interest thereon, at a rate not exceeding 5% per annum.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971.

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### **40A:14-81. Board of fire commissioners; general powers**

The commissioners of a fire district shall have the powers, duties and functions within said district to the same extent as in the case of municipalities, relating to the prevention and extinguishment of fires and the regulation of fire hazards.

Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to affect the powers, duties and functions of the State Department of Environmental Protection pertaining to forest fire services.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971.

### **40A:14-81.1. Fire districts; paid positions; establishment; resolution; procedure for passage; publication**

a. The commissioners of any fire district may, by resolution, establish paid positions within the fire department, or for the fire district, as such position shall be determined by the commissioners to be required for the purposes of the fire district. The commissioners shall, by resolution, appoint persons to, determine the terms of, fix the compensation for, and prescribe the powers, functions and duties of all paid positions so established. For the purposes of this section, a paid position shall mean any position for which any compensation is provided by the fire district other than reimbursement for expenses and losses actually incurred in the performance of duties.

b. Every resolution proposed pursuant to subsection a. of this section, after being introduced and having passed a first reading, which may be by title, shall be published in full at least once in a newspaper having substantial circulation in the fire district, together with a notice of the introduction thereof and the time and place when and where it will be considered for final passage. Such publication shall appear at least 1 week prior to the time fixed for further consideration for final passage.

c. At the time and place stated in the publication, or at any time and place to which the meeting for the further consideration of the resolution shall from time to time be adjourned, all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the resolution. The opportunity to be heard shall include the right to ask pertinent questions concerning the resolution by any resident of the fire district or by any other person affected by the resolution. Final passage of the resolution shall be at least 10 days after the first reading.

d. Upon the opening of the hearing, the resolution shall be given a second reading, which may be by title, and may thereafter be passed with or without amendment, or rejected. At least 1 week prior to second reading, a copy of the resolution shall be posted in such public place as notices are usually posted in the district, and copies shall be made available to each person requesting a copy during said week and during the hearing. No

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amendment to such resolution shall be adopted, unless such amendment is presented in written form to the fire commissioners and copies made available to each person requesting a copy at the meeting at which the amendment is considered.

e. Upon passage, every such resolution, or the title, together with a notice of the date of passage or approval, or both, shall be published at least once in a newspaper having substantial circulation in the fire district.

P.L. 1979, c. 453, § 1.

### **40A:14-81.2. Qualifications for appointment to paid position**

Except as otherwise provided by law, no person shall be appointed to a paid position authorized pursuant to section 1 of this act unless that person:

- a. Is a citizen of the United States;
- b. Is eligible for acceptance in the Public Employees' Retirement System of New Jersey or in the Police and Firemen's Retirement System of New Jersey;
- c. Is able to read, write and speak the English language well and intelligently;
- d. Is of good moral character;
- e. Has not been convicted of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude.

P.L. 1979, c. 453, § 2.

### **40A:14-81.3. Supervisory authority**

Supervisory authority over personnel of a fire district may be exercised by the commissioners of the fire district or delegated, by resolution, to any commissioner or any employee or employees thereof.

L.1979, c. 453, § 3.

### **40A:14-81.4. Employees and volunteer firemen; reimbursement for expenses and losses**

Any employees of a fire district and any volunteer firemen having membership in a volunteer fire company within the fire district may be reimbursed within the limitations of amounts appropriated therefore in the annual district budget for expenses and losses actually incurred in the performance of their duties.

P.L. 1979, c. 453, § 4.

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### **40A:14-81.5. Travel expenses; advances**

The governing body of any fire district may, by resolution, provide for and authorize payment of advances to officers and employees of the fire district toward their expenses for authorized official travel and expenses incident thereto. The resolution shall provide for the verification and adjustment of the expenses and advances and the repayment of any excess advance by means of a detailed bill of items or demand and certification or affidavit in the same form as required by a local unit pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:5-6 which shall be submitted within 10 days after the completion of the travel for which an advance was made.

P.L. 1983, c. 475, § 1, eff. Jan. 12, 1984.

### **40A:14-82. Limitation of average hours of duty for uniformed members of fire district fire departments**

The board of commissioners of a fire district having a uniformed paid or part-paid fire department, by resolution, may adopt a schedule of hours of actual duty for the members of such district fire department based upon an average of 56 hours per week in any 6-week cycle, but in cases of emergency the official in charge shall have authority to retain any uniformed member on duty during the period of the emergency and in any such case and within 12 months thereafter such member shall be given hours off from the average 56 hours per week in any 6-week cycle to compensate him for the extra hours served by him during such emergency.

Any such resolution shall be inoperative unless and until it shall have been submitted to and adopted by the legal voters within said fire district at the annual election held for commissioners of the board, or at a special election for such purpose.

The resolution shall be submitted as a public question in the manner prescribed by law, by resolution of said board, or by filing with the clerk of the board of fire commissioners of such district a petition for such submission, signed by at least 20% of the legal voters who voted in the next preceding annual election for members of the board of fire commissioners.

The question shall be submitted substantially as follows:

"Insert the name and number of the fire district and state the question as to whether the fire department of the district shall be maintained in such manner as to provide that no uniformed member thereof shall be required to remain on duty in excess of 56 hours per week in any 6-week cycle except in cases of emergency."

If a majority of the legal voters voting on such question vote in favor of the adoption, the resolution on and after January 1 following such election shall become operative.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971.

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### **40A:14-83. Leasing space in building of fire district**

The board of fire commissioners of a fire district may lease at a nominal rental space in any of its buildings to the municipality in which the district is located.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971.

### **40A:14-84. Revenue for fire district purposes; limitations; meetings**

The legal voters, at the annual meeting or at a special meeting called by the commissioners of the fire district, may vote to raise money for a firehouse, apparatus and appliances in connection therewith for fire extinguishing purposes, in an amount not exceeding 5 mills on the dollar of the last assessed valuation of the property in the fire district. The amount so voted for shall be included in the next succeeding annual budget of the fire district under the section for capital appropriations.

Any such special meeting shall be called on 10 days' notice by the board of fire commissioners, to be posted in five public places in the district, setting forth the time, place and object of the meeting and the legal voters shall determine the amount of money to be raised.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971. Amended by L.1979, c. 453, § 15.

### **40A:14-85. Acquisition of property and equipment for fire districts; limitations; referendum for issuance of bonds**

The board of commissioners of a fire district may purchase fire engines, apparatus or other appliances for the extinguishment of fires and acquire lands or buildings or erect buildings for the housing of such equipment, at a cost not exceeding \$60,000.00 or 2% of the assessed valuation of the taxable property in the district, whichever amount is larger, the money to be raised by a bond issue. Any such bond issue shall be authorized by a resolution of the commissioners specifying the amount and the purpose thereof. The resolution shall be inoperative unless and until it shall have been submitted to and approved by the legal voters within said fire district at the annual election held for the election of commissioners and appropriation of money for fire extinguishing purposes, or at a special election for such purpose.

The resolution shall be written or printed and the election shall be upon notice stating the time and place. If said election is to be the annual one, the notices shall be posted by the clerk of the board of fire commissioners in 10 public places, at least 10 days prior to the date of the election. The board of commissioners and the clerk, in their or his discretion, may advertise the election in a newspaper, published in the fire district, if any, otherwise in a newspaper published in the county of said district and circulating in such district. When a special election is specified notices shall be posted in 10 public places, at least 21

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days prior to the date of election, and the clerk of said board shall advertise said notice in such a newspaper at least twice prior to the election date.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971.

### **40A:14-85.1. Appropriations by fire districts**

Any fire district may appropriate such sums as it may deem necessary for the purchase of first aid, ambulance, rescue or other emergency vehicles, equipment, supplies and materials for use by duly incorporated first aid, emergency or volunteer ambulance or rescue squad associations rendering service generally throughout the fire district.

P.L. 1986, c. 120, § 2, eff. Oct. 8, 1986.

### **40A:14-86. Voting on bond issue of fire district; issuance and sale**

The legal voters, at any election held for the purpose of raising money by issuance of bonds, shall vote by ballot on the question. The election shall be conducted in the same manner as other fire district elections.

If a majority of the legal voters voting on the question favor the issuance of such bonds the board of fire commissioners shall be authorized to issue them.

Said bonds shall be serial bonds issued in the corporate name of the fire district, in the authorized amount, not exceeding in the aggregate \$60,000.00 or 2% of the assessed valuation of the taxable property of the district, whichever amount is larger. They shall be in the amounts and payable at the time directed, with interest at any rate of interest that the fire commissioners may approve and which shall be payable semi-annually. The bonds shall not be issued for longer than a 30-year period. They shall be signed by the manual or facsimile signature of the chairman of the board of fire commissioners and attested by the manual or facsimile signature of the clerk, and may be attested by a registrar or authenticating agent. The bonds shall be coupon bonds or registered bonds and shall be issued at such price or prices, not less than par, as the board of fire commissioners shall determine. The bonds shall be sold at public or private sale for the best obtainable price.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971. Amended by L.1983, c. 381, § 1, eff. Nov. 10, 1983.

### **40A:14-86.1. Fire district bonds; bond anticipation notes**

The board of commissioners of a fire district, following the authorization by voters of the issuance of bonds pursuant to N.J.S. 40A:14-86, may by resolution borrow money and issue negotiable notes in anticipation of the bond issue. Any note shall be designated a "bond anticipation note" and shall contain a recital that it is issued in anticipation of the issuance of bonds. Such notes may be issued for a period not to exceed 1 year, and may

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be renewed from time to time not to exceed 1 year; but all such notes, including renewals, shall mature and be paid not later than the third anniversary of the date of the original notes; provided, however, that no notes shall be renewed beyond the first anniversary date of the original notes unless an amount of such notes, at least equal to the first legally payable installment of the bonds in anticipation of which the notes are issued is paid and retired on or before the second anniversary date, and if the notes are renewed beyond the second anniversary date of the original notes, a like amount is paid or retired on or before the third anniversary date from funds other than the proceeds of obligations; except that the notes shall mature and be paid not later than the first day of the fifth month following the close of the third fiscal year next following the date of the original notes, provided that, in addition to amounts paid and retired pursuant to this section, an amount of such notes equal to not less than the first legally payable installment of the bonds in anticipation of which the notes are issued has been paid and retired not later than the end of the third fiscal year from funds other than the proceeds of obligations.

The period of usefulness as defined in N.J.S. 40A:2-22 of any purpose for which bonds are issued shall include the period during which notes issued in anticipation of such bonds are outstanding, including all renewals thereof.

Funds derived from the issuance of fire district bonds may be used to redeem notes issued in anticipation of the bond issue.

P.L. 1981, c. 188, § 1, eff. June 25, 1981.

### **40A:14-87. Payments of interest and principal; inclusion in budget; borrowing to pay**

Whenever bonds have been duly issued the board of fire commissioners shall annually include in the budget of the fire district under the section for capital appropriations, the amount required to meet the interest payments and pay the bonds maturing in the ensuing year, together with interest thereon. The board of fire commissioners shall cause the principal and interest on said bonds to be paid as they become due.

If no funds are currently available to pay the maturing bonds or interest, the board of fire commissioners may borrow money and execute evidences of indebtedness for the purpose of making such payments in the same manner as in other cases of borrowing.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971. Amended by L.1979, c. 453, § 16.

### **40A:14-88. Compensation for members of boards of fire commissioners**

The secretary and treasurer shall be members of the board and their appointments shall be for terms of one year. Each member of the board of fire commissioners shall receive as compensation such amounts as the board shall fix subject to review by the governing body wherein the fire district is located.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971.

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### **40A:14-89. Fire district treasurer, custodian of money; bond; annual audit**

The treasurer of the fire district shall be the custodian and disbursing officer of the moneys of the said district. Moneys shall be disbursed by warrants signed by a majority of the board. The treasurer shall be bonded by a surety company, authorized to do business in New Jersey, in such an amount as the board shall prescribe.

The board of fire commissioners shall cause his records to be audited at least once a year, within 30 days after expiration of the fiscal year and such audit shall be reported to the board at the next regular meeting, following. Within 10 days thereafter the clerk of the board of fire commissioners shall advertise such audit at least twice in a newspaper circulating in said district. The expense of the bond and audit shall be borne by the district.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971.

### **40A:14-90. Enlargement of fire district**

The governing body of a municipality having a fire district therein, by ordinance, may enlarge such fire district by extending the boundaries thereof to include additional territory in such municipality but not included in another fire district.

Upon the adoption of any such ordinance and publication thereof as required by law the additional territory shall become part of said fire district.

Nothing contained herein shall affect the terms or tenure of members of the board of fire commissioners or officers or personnel thereof, nor the bonds and obligations, if any, of such fire district.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971. Amended by L.1979, c. 381, § 2, eff. Feb. 5, 1980.

### **40A:14-91. Dissolution of fire district**

Upon a written application therefore, of at least 5% of the registered voters or 20 legal voters whichever is the greater the governing body of the municipality, wherein the fire district is located, shall consider the dissolution of the fire district. Upon receipt of such an application the governing body of said municipality shall fix a time and place for a hearing thereon. The municipal clerk shall advertise the notice of hearing in a newspaper circulating in the county wherein the municipality is located at least once and not less than 10 days prior to the meeting.

After the hearing the governing body of said municipality shall determine the question of the proposed dissolution.

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If a resolution be adopted that the fire district be dissolved, any moneys remaining in the fire district treasury shall be disposed of as the said governing body shall direct.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971. Amended by L.1979, c. 381, § 3, eff. Feb. 5, 1980.

### **40A:14-92. Cancellation of taxes or refunds on dissolution of fire district**

In any municipality wherein a fire district is dissolved the governing body of the municipality may cancel unpaid tax levies for the fire district or refund fully or proportionately without interest any moneys paid by the taxpayers in said fire district to the collector of the municipality, but the total amount of any such refunds shall not exceed the amount of money on hand for the account of the fire district upon said dissolution.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971.

### **40A:14-93. Illegally created fire district; abatements or refunds**

Upon a written application therefor, of at least 20 legal voters residing in a fire district, alleging that the fire district was not created in accordance with law, and upon a determination by the governing body that said allegation is fully supported by uncontradicted evidence and that taxes have been assessed on their property, the governing body of the municipality, by resolution, may abate and remit all of such unpaid taxes and authorize refunds of taxes paid to the taxpayers.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971.

### **40A:14-94. Formation of new municipalities; abolition of fire district; apportionment of assets and liabilities**

A fire district shall be deemed abolished when the municipality in which it is located shall be divided and formed into or become part of 2 or more new municipalities.

Upon such abolition the governing bodies of the new municipalities and the treasurer or custodian of the funds of said fire district shall meet at a time and place to be designated by the clerk of the new municipality wherein the fire district or greater part thereof is located. The notice of the meeting shall be served personally or by certified mail upon each member of the board of said fire district, not less than 10 days prior to the meeting. At the meeting the property of the fire district shall be apportioned between or among said new municipalities in proportion to the aggregate value of the buildings and contents of such fire district located respectively therein as ascertained from the last assessment for said fire district.

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A written report of such apportionment, signed by the members of the governing bodies present at said meeting, shall be made. The report shall set forth the current assets and liabilities and the division of the money and property of the fire district. The taxpayers of the respective new municipalities shall be liable to pay their proportion of the debts, if any, of said fire district. Upon the ascertainment of the amount of money to be paid and the property to be distributed and the manner of such payment and distribution to each municipality, the treasurer or custodian of funds of said fire district shall pay and transfer said moneys and property accordingly.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971.

### **40A:14-95. Establishment of Junior Firemen's Auxiliary**

In any municipality or fire district in this State maintaining a volunteer fire department, or where there shall exist one or more incorporated volunteer fire companies affording fire protection to said municipality or fire district the membership whereof are serving under the jurisdiction of and with the consent of said municipality or fire district, it shall be lawful for the governing body of such municipality, or the board of commissioners of such fire district to provide, by ordinance or resolution, for the establishment of an auxiliary to any such volunteer fire department or company to be known as the Junior Firemen's Auxiliary.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971.

### **40A:14-96. Eligibility for membership in the Junior Firemen's Auxiliary**

No person shall be eligible for membership in the Junior Firemen's Auxiliary who is less than 16 or more than 21 years of age. Persons between the ages of 16 and 21 shall be required to obtain permission to join the auxiliary from their parents or guardian. Such permission shall be in writing and acknowledged or proved in the manner required by law for deeds to real estate to be recorded.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971.

### **40A:14-97. Insurance coverage for members**

A fire district may provide members of a Junior Firemen's Auxiliary established as an auxiliary to a volunteer fire department or to an incorporated volunteer fire company within the fire district with the same coverage as provided for the regular volunteer firemen of the fire district under N.J.S. 40A:14-37 and 40A:14-38.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971. Amended by L.1979, c. 230, § 4, eff. Oct. 15, 1979.

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### **40A:14-98. Rules and regulations governing activities of Junior Firemen's Auxiliary**

The governing body of the municipality or the board of commissioners of the fire district shall, before authorizing the establishment of any Junior Firemen's Auxiliary, formulate rules and regulations to govern the activities of the auxiliary. The rules and regulations shall provide for the training of the auxiliary for eventual membership in the volunteer fire department of the municipality or fire district or in any such volunteer fire company or companies affording fire protection therein, and shall further provide that no junior fireman shall be required to perform duties which would expose him to the same degree of hazard as a regular member of a volunteer fire company.

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971.

### **40A:14-100. Section 40:47-51 of the Revised Statutes saved from repeal**

Section 40:47-51 of the Revised Statutes is saved from repeal. [The act saved from repeal by said section, which section is now saved from repeal, provided that cities and municipalities not having a paid fire department prior to March 1, 1886 may create and maintain such a fire department and are authorized to establish said department by referendum and provide for the appointment, powers and duties of a board of fire commissioners.]

P.L. 1971, c. 197, § 1, eff. July 1, 1971.

### **40A:14-105.1. Volunteer firemen's song**

The song of the volunteer firemen of New Jersey shall be the words and music of the song entitled "The Volunteer" composed by Wayne Swezey.

P.L. 1982, c. 90, § 1, eff. July 28, 1982.