

[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 3607

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator PAUL A. SARLO

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman ROSAURA "ROSY" BAGOLIE

District 27 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

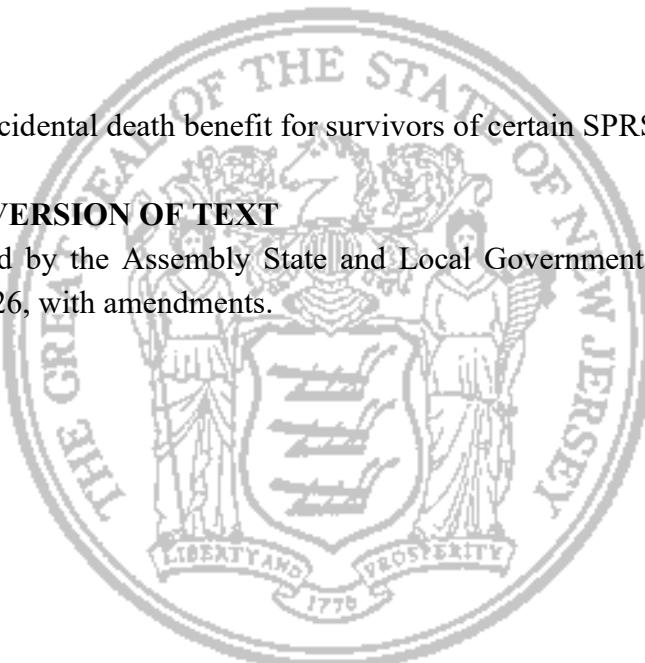
**Senators Diegnan, O'Scanlon, Amato, Wimberly, Singleton, Greenstein,
Assemblyman Stanley and Assemblywoman Matsikoudis**

SYNOPSIS

Extends accidental death benefit for survivors of certain SPRS retirees.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly State and Local Government Committee on January 5, 2026, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/12/2026)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the accidental death benefits of the State Police
2 Retirement System and amending P.L.2021, c.75.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2021, c.75 (C.53:5A-14.5) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. (1) The surviving spouse or surviving child or children of a
10 retired member of the State Police Retirement System who received
11 an accidental disability retirement allowance in accordance with
12 subsection a. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10), an
13 ordinary disability retirement allowance in accordance with section
14 9 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-9), a special retirement allowance in
15 accordance with section 27 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-27), or a
16 service retirement allowance in accordance with section 8 of
17 P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-8) shall receive the accidental death
18 benefits as set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14),
19 provided that **【the retired member died before July 8, 2019 and】**
20 **'the member was enrolled in the retirement system at the time of**
21 **participation in World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or cleanup**
22 **operations, under orders or instructions to participate, and'** the
23 surviving spouse, child, or children submit documentation that the
24 member would have qualified for, or did qualify for, a retirement
25 allowance in accordance with subsection e. of section 10 of
26 P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10), upon the submission to the board of
27 trustees of proper proofs of the death of that retiree, except that the
28 written and sworn statement specified in paragraph (4) of
29 subsection e. of section 10 of P.L. 1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) shall
30 not be required, notwithstanding any other provision of law or
31 regulation to the contrary. Notwithstanding the provision of
32 subsection c. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) or any
33 other provision of law to the contrary, the lump sum benefit of 3 1/2
34 times final compensation in subsection e. of section 14 of P.L.1965,
35 c.89 (C.53:5A-14) shall apply.

36 (2) The surviving spouse or surviving child or children, or any
37 legal guardian of the surviving child or children, shall be eligible to
38 receive the accidental death benefits as set forth in section 14 of
39 P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14), upon the submission to the board of
40 trustees of proper proofs of the death of the member or retiree,
41 notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation to the
42 contrary, if the spouse, child, children, or guardian submits
43 sufficient documentation that the deceased member or retiree would
44 have qualified for, or did qualify for, an accidental disability
45 retirement allowance in accordance with subsection e. of section 10

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 underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ASL committee amendments adopted January 5, 2026.

1 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10). The board of trustees shall require
2 the submission of such information as the deceased member or
3 retiree would have been required to submit in accordance with
4 subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) and such
5 other information as the board of trustees may deem necessary to
6 make a determination, except that the written and sworn statement
7 specified in paragraph (4) of subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.
8 1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) shall not be required. Notwithstanding
9 any other provision of law to the contrary, the lump sum benefit of
10 3 1/2 times final compensation in subsection e. of section 14 of
11 P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) shall apply.

12 (3) Paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection shall apply only if
13 the member's or retiree's death was the result of a qualifying
14 condition or impairment of health as defined in subsection e. of
15 section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) which the medical board
16 '[or the World Trade Center Health Program]'¹ determines to be
17 caused by participation in World Trade Center rescue, recovery, or
18 cleanup operations.

19 b. (1) The surviving spouse of a deceased retired member who is
20 receiving a pension in accordance with section 25 of P.L.1965, c.89
21 (C.53:5A-25) due to the death of the retired member [on or before
22 July 8, 2019] shall be eligible to apply to the board of trustees and,
23 upon approval of the application by the board, shall receive the
24 accidental death benefits set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89
25 (C.53:5A-14) if the surviving spouse submits sufficient
26 documentation that the deceased retiree would have qualified, or
27 did qualify, for a retirement under subsection e. of section 10 of
28 P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) [but for the fact that the benefit was
29 not available to the retiree prior to the retiree's death], or if the
30 member previously filed the written and sworn statement required
31 pursuant to paragraph (4) of subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.
32 1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10).

33 (2) A surviving spouse who received the pension in accordance
34 with section 25 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-25), but whose
35 eligibility for that pension was terminated because the surviving
36 spouse no longer met the definition of "surviving spouse" as set
37 forth in section 3 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-3), shall be eligible to
38 apply to the board of trustees and, upon approval of the application
39 by the board, shall receive the accidental death benefits set forth in
40 section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14) under the same terms
41 and conditions and pursuant to the same requirements as set forth in
42 paragraph (1) of this subsection. If the former spouse receives the
43 accidental death benefits as set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89
44 (C.53:5A-14), a surviving child or children who are receiving
45 benefits pursuant to section 25 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-25) shall
46 no longer be eligible to receive those benefits.

47 (3) If there is no surviving spouse or no former surviving spouse
48 because the spouse has died or has declined in writing to apply

1 pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection, the surviving child or
2 surviving children who are receiving benefits in accordance with
3 section 25 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-25) on the effective date of
4 ~~【this act,】~~ P.L.2021, c.75 (C.53:5A-14.5), or any legal guardian of
5 the child or children, may submit the application and receive the
6 benefits set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-14)
7 under the same terms and conditions and pursuant to the same
8 requirements as set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

9 (4) ~~1~~【The board of trustees shall provide written notification to
10 each surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, and surviving
11 child, and any legal guardian of a surviving child, of the provisions
12 of this subsection, within】~~1~~【30】~~1~~【60 days after the effective date
13 of】~~1~~【this act】~~1~~【P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this
14 bill) by letter sent via certified mail.】 (Deleted by amendment, P.L.
15 , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill)】¹

16 (5) In order to receive the benefit provided in this subsection, a
17 surviving spouse, former surviving spouse, or surviving child, or
18 any legal guardian of the surviving child, shall submit an
19 application not later than two years after the date of the member or
20 retiree's death, or two years after the effective date of 【this act】
21 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), whichever
22 is later.

23 (6) The board of trustees shall require the surviving spouse,
24 former surviving spouse, or surviving child, or any legal guardian
25 of the surviving child, to submit such information as the deceased
26 member or retiree would have been required to submit in
27 accordance with subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89
28 (C.53:5A-10) and such other information as the board of trustees
29 may deem necessary to review the application and make a
30 determination, except that the written and sworn statement specified
31 in paragraph (4) of subsection e. of section 10 of P.L. 1965, c.89
32 (C.53:5A-10) shall not be required. Paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of
33 this subsection shall apply only if the retiree's death was the result
34 of a qualifying condition or impairment of health as defined in
35 subsection e. of section 10 of P.L.1965, c.89 (C.53:5A-10) which
36 the medical board 1【or the World Trade Center Health Program】¹
37 determines to be caused by participation in World Trade Center
38 rescue, recovery, or cleanup operations 【and if the deceased
39 member or retiree died before July 8, 2019】.

40 (7) Upon approval of an application, the surviving spouse,
41 former surviving spouse, or surviving child or children, or any legal
42 guardian of the surviving child or children, shall receive the annual
43 payments of the accidental death benefit, and the lump sum death
44 benefit payment, as set forth in section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89
45 (C.53:5A-14). The annual benefit payments shall apply only for
46 payments made after the effective date of 【this act】P.L.2021, c.75.
47 No surviving spouse or former surviving spouse or surviving child,

1 or any legal guardian of the surviving child, shall be granted a
2 retroactive payment based upon the difference between the benefit
3 the person would have received if the benefit pursuant to this
4 subsection had been applicable on the date of death of the retiree
5 and the benefit that the person has received from that date of death
6 to the effective date of 【this act】 P.L.2021, c.75, or the date of the
7 application approval, whichever is later. The lump sum benefit paid
8 to a beneficiary shall be and shall not exceed 3 1/2 times the
9 retiree's final compensation in total regardless of the provision of
10 law under which the lump sum death benefit was paid.

11 (8) The health care benefit premiums to be paid by the State in
12 accordance with subsection h. of section 14 of P.L.1965, c.89
13 (C.53:5A-14) shall apply if the surviving spouse, former surviving
14 spouse, or surviving child or children are still receiving coverage
15 from the employer-sponsored health insurance program or, if that
16 coverage was terminated, can again become eligible for such
17 coverage. If such coverage is no longer available, the surviving
18 spouse, former surviving spouse, or surviving child or children shall
19 be eligible to enroll in the State Health Benefits Program, P.L.1961,
20 c.49 (C.52:14-17.25 et seq.), notwithstanding any provision thereof
21 to the contrary.

22 c. This act, P.L.2021, c.75 (C.53:5A-14.5), shall be known and
23 may be cited as the Trooper I Robert Nagle and Staff Sergeant
24 Bryan McCoy 911 First Responders Act.

25 (cf: P.L.2021, c.75, s.1)

26

27 2. This act shall take effect immediately.