

CHAPTER 328

AN ACT exempting certain emergency volunteers from the 7-day waiting period for workers' compensation and amending R.S.34:15-14 and R.S.34:15-75.

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

1. R.S.34:15-14 is amended to read as follows:

Waiting period.

34:15-14. Except as provided pursuant to R.S.34:15-75, no compensation other than medical aid shall accrue and be payable until the employee has been disabled seven days, whether the days of disability immediately follow the accident, or whether they be consecutive or not. These days shall be termed the waiting period. The day that the employee is unable to continue at work by reason of his accident, whether it be the day of the accident or later, shall count as one whole day of the waiting period. Should the total period of disability extend beyond seven days, additional compensation shall at once become payable covering the above prescribed waiting period.

2. R.S.34:15-75 is amended to read as follows:

Compensation for injury, death provided for certain volunteers.

34:15-75. Compensation for injury and death, either or both, of any volunteer fireman, county fire marshal, assistant county fire marshal, volunteer first aid or rescue squad worker, volunteer driver of any municipally-owned or operated ambulance, forest fire warden or forest fire fighter employed by the State of New Jersey, member of a board of education, special reserve or auxiliary policeman doing volunteer public police duty under the control or supervision of any commission, council or any other governing body of any municipality, emergency management volunteer doing emergency management service, or any volunteer worker for the Division of Parks and Forestry, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, the New Jersey Natural Lands Trust or the New Jersey Historic Trust, shall:

- a. Be based upon a weekly salary or compensation conclusively presumed to be received by such person in an amount sufficient to entitle him, or, in the event of his death, his dependents, to receive the maximum compensation by this chapter authorized; and
- b. Not be subject to the seven-day waiting period provided in R.S.34:15-14.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 5, 2002.