

## CHAPTER 71

AN ACT concerning snow accumulation over fire hydrants, and supplementing chapter 65 of Title 40 of the Revised Statutes.

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

C.40:65-12.1 Definitions relative to snow removal from fire hydrants.

1. a. As used in P.L.2015, c.71 (C.40:65-12.1 et seq.):

“Director” means the Director of the Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs.

“Division” means the Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs.

“Hydrant locator pole” means a pole installed on, or adjacent to, as appropriate, a fire hydrant to enable the hydrant to be located when covered in snow.

“Snow coverage” means the initial complete coverage of the fire hydrant as a result of natural precipitation or street clearing activities.

b. On or before the first day of the twelfth month next following the operative date of P.L.2015, c.71 (C.40:65-12.1 et seq.), the governing body of every municipality may:

(1) install, or cause to be installed, a hydrant locator pole on every working fire hydrant within municipal boundaries. The hydrant locator pole shall be maintained in compliance with rules and regulations adopted by the director;

(2) adopt an ordinance or resolution, as applicable, requiring the owner of any real property abutting any fire hydrant to clear such fire hydrant of snow, within 24 hours of snow coverage, in compliance with rules and regulations adopted by the director; or

(3) adopt an ordinance or resolution, as applicable, directing the municipality itself, or any department thereof, to clear all fire hydrants of snow, within 24 hours of snow coverage, in compliance with rules and regulations adopted by the director.

c. If a party responsible for fire hydrant clearance under subsection b. of this section fails to perform the required clearance within the specified time, the municipality, or any department thereof, may perform the clearance and bill the responsible party no more than \$75 for the service.

C.40:65-12.2 Rules, regulations.

2. On or before the first day of the sixth month next following enactment of P.L.2015, c.71 (C.40:65-12.1 et seq.), the director, in accordance with the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall adopt and promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary for the implementation of this act, including guidance for the acceptable physical characteristics of hydrant locator poles, maintenance requirements for such poles, and snow removal standards.

3. This act shall take effect immediately, but section 1 shall remain inoperative until the first day of the sixth month next following enactment.

Approved July 6, 2015.