

## CHAPTER 123

**AN ACT** concerning exempt fireman certificates and New Jersey State Firemen's Association membership and amending N.J.S.40A:14-56 and R.S.43:17-9.

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

1. N.J.S.40A:14-56 is amended to read as follows:

Exempt fireman certificate; eligibility.

40A:14-56. A member of the fire department and force of a municipality shall be entitled to an exempt fireman certificate when it appears that at the time of his appointment he was of good moral character and was not under 18 or over 57 years of age and that he had performed: during a period of seven years, 60% of fire duty; or after January 1, 2009, 50% of fire duty; or after January 1, 2020, a percentage rate as set by the executive committee of the New Jersey State Exempt Firemen's Association, in each year, respectively. Any member who otherwise would be eligible for an exempt fireman certificate, but who, as the result of an injury or injuries incurred out of or in the course of fire duty, is permanently unable to fulfill the seven-year performance requirement set forth in this section, shall be entitled to an exempt fireman certificate if, at the time he incurred the injury or injuries, the member had performed: during a period of five years, 60% of fire duty; or after January 1, 2009, 50% of fire duty; or after January 1, 2020, the percentage rate as set by the executive committee of the New Jersey State Exempt Firemen's Association, in each year, respectively. In cases where the appointment was made during the war years the age limit shall be extended 10 years. Service in the United States Armed Forces during the war years shall be considered as fire duty service.

Service in more than one municipal fire department, for separate periods not concurrent, amounting in the aggregate to seven years, shall be deemed equivalent to seven years' service in a single municipal fire department and any fireman so serving shall be entitled to an exempt fireman certificate from the department and force in the municipality wherein he is serving at the time when he becomes entitled to the certificate. The prior service shall be certified by the chief executive officer of the municipality or municipalities wherein the member served and attested by the municipal clerk or clerks.

2. R.S.43:17-9 is amended to read as follows:

Membership qualifications.

43:17-9. The membership of such corporation shall consist, without any formal election thereto, of the officers and members of such fire engine, hook and ladder, hose and supply company or companies, fire association or fire department, or board of firewardens, as shall be under the supervision or control of the governing board or body of the municipality or fire district and who, at the time of their becoming eligible for membership in the New Jersey State Firemen's Association, shall be not less than 18 years of age and who were not more than 57 years of age at the time of joining the New Jersey State Firemen's Association and shall furnish evidence of good health in accordance with such reasonable rules and regulations as the executive committee of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association shall from time to time establish; the officers and members of any nonprofit corporations and associations incorporated pursuant to N.J.S.15A:1-1 et seq.; and the officers and members of any association therein of exempt firemen. The whole body of the membership of such corporation shall have the same rights therein as the charter members thereof.

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3. This act shall take effect immediately and be retroactive to January 1, 2020.

Approved June 24, 2021.