

P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 151, *approved August 28, 2023*
Assembly, No. 5275 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning municipal fire department chaplains and
2 amending P.L.1971, c.197.
3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:
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7 1. Section 1 of P.L.1971, c.197 (C.40A:14-24) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 1. a. The governing body of any municipality, by ordinance, may
10 provide for the appointment of one or more chaplains to the paid or
11 part-paid fire department and force of the municipality. Any person so
12 appointed to qualify shall be an ordained clergyman in good standing
13 in the religious body from which **[he]** the person is selected. The
14 chaplains shall become members of the municipal paid or part-paid
15 fire department and force with the rank of battalion chief. Their
16 salaries shall be fixed by the governing body of the municipality and
17 payable in the same manner as in the case of the other paid members
18 of the fire department and force.

19 b. A municipal fire department and force chaplain employed on
20 the effective date of P.L. c. (C.) (pending before the
21 Legislature as this bill) shall not be dismissed or reduced in
22 compensation except for ¹**[inefficiency]** reasons of economy or
23 efficiency¹, incapacity, or conduct unbecoming such a chaplain or
24 other just cause as determined by the municipal governing body.

25 c. A municipal fire department and force chaplain initially
26 appointed after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
27 before the Legislature as this bill), shall become a member of the
28 municipal paid or part-paid fire department and force with or without
29 the rank and salary as specified in the ordinance. A chaplain's rank,
30 salary, and benefits, if any, shall be determined by the governing body
31 of the municipality.

32 (cf: P.L.1971, c.197, s.1)
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34 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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39 _____
40 Allows municipality to determine if newly appointed individual
41 serving as municipal fire department chaplain will hold rank and
receive salary and benefits.

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:

¹Senate SCU committee amendments adopted June 1, 2023.