



State of New Jersey
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January 6, 2010

TO: Certifying Officers, Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS)
FROM: Wendy Jamison *Wendy Jamison*
Secretary, PFRS Board of Trustees
SUBJECT: Reminder of Deadline for PFRS Training Requirements

This letter is being sent to employers as a reminder that **as of July 1, 2010, all PFRS members must meet the statutory definition of a "police officer" or "firefighter" including the successful completion of specific training requirements.***

In 2008, the Board of Trustees for the Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS) adopted amendments to the New Jersey Administrative Code that addressed "training requirements" for police officers and firefighters and eligibility for the PFRS. (N.J.A.C. 17:4-2.4, — detailed in the Certifying Officer Letter of December 15, 2008.)

In brief, to be eligible for participation in PFRS:

- All police officers enrolled in the PFRS must complete the appropriate basic training course for the title to which they were appointed. For example, an investigator must complete the Basic Course for Investigators in order to meet the training requirements for PFRS membership; a State corrections officer must complete the Basic Course for State Corrections Officers; a County corrections officer must complete the Basic Course for County Corrections Officers; a police officer or a sheriff's officer must complete the Basic Course for Police Officer to qualify for continued PFRS membership. If a PFRS member has previously completed the appropriate basic training course for the title to which the member was appointed, and the certification for that training is currently valid, then that training qualifies for purposes of PFRS membership. Typically, successful completion of basic training courses for police officers and corrections officers is certified through the Police Training Commission (PTC).
- All firefighters enrolled in the PFRS must complete and receive Firefighter 1 certification through the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety.

Note: *In certain circumstances, police officer members may be granted credit for substantially equivalent portions of previous basic police training which was completed as a requirement of previous employment by a federal, state, or county law enforcement agency, if approved by the PTC and the PFRS Board of Trustees. Employers may submit proof of other police officer certification along with a written request for consideration to the PFRS Board and Trustee Administration, Division of Pensions and Benefits, PO Box 295, Trenton, NJ, 08625-0295. For firefighter members, no other training can be substituted for the Firefighter 1 certification.*

*As prescribed for police positions in N.J.S.A. 43:16A-1 and 52:17B-66 et seq.; and for firefighter positions in N.J.S.A. 43:16A-1 and 52:17B-66 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 17:4-2.4, specifies that any PFRS police members or firefighting members who have not successfully completed the PTC or Firefighter 1 certification as of July 1, 2010 **will face removal from PFRS membership.**

Therefore, employers should verify with their police officer and firefighter employees that all required training is, or will be, completed prior to the July 1, 2010 deadline.

If you have additional questions about the information provided in this letter, contact the Division's Office of Client Services at (609) 292-7524 or e-mail the Division at: *pensions.nj@treas.state.nj.us*