

CHAPTER 8**LAYOFFS****Authority**

N.J.S.A. 11A:2-6(d), 11A:2-11(h), 11A:4-7, 11A:4-9,
11A:4-12, 11A:6-28, 11A:8-1 through 11A:8-4.

Source and Effective Date

R.1995 d.251, effective April 21, 1995.
See: 27 N.J.R. 612(a), 27 N.J.R. 1967(b).

Executive Order No. 66(1978) Expiration Date

Chapter 8, Layoffs, expires on April 21, 2000.

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 8, Layoffs, was adopted as R.1990 d.49, effective January 16, 1990. See: 21 N.J.R. 3340(a), 22 N.J.R. 169(a). Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 8 was readopted as R.1995 d.55, effective December 30, 1994. See: 26 N.J.R. 3518(a), 27 N.J.R. 482(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 8 was readopted as R.1995 d.251. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. PROCEDURES**4A:8-1.1 General**

(a) An appointing authority may institute layoff actions for economy, efficiency or other related reasons.

1. Demotions for economy, efficiency or other related reasons shall be considered layoff actions and shall be subject to the requirements of this chapter.

(b) The Commissioner or authorized representative of the Department of Personnel shall determine seniority and designate lateral, demotional and special reemployment rights for all career service titles prior to the effective date

of the layoff and have such information provided to affected parties.

Amended by R.1995 d.251, effective May 15, 1995.
See: 27 N.J.R. 612(a), 27 N.J.R. 1967(b).

Case Notes

Negotiations with union concerning Department of Environmental Protection's reduction of employees' workweek were preempted by statute and regulations that created comprehensive demotional layoff scheme. *State v. Communications Workers of America, AFL-CIO*, 285 N.J.Super. 541, 667 A.2d 1070 (A.D.1995), certification denied.

Reduction in plumbing subcode official's work hours and compensation was motivated only by budgetary concerns and was done in good faith and did not violate Uniform Construction Code Act. *Voges v. Borough of Tinton Falls*, 268 N.J.Super. 279, 633 A.2d 566 (A.D.1993), certification denied 135 N.J. 466, 640 A.2d 848.

Statute which permitted lay off of permanent public employee superseded statute providing that an injured public employee receiving workers' compensation benefits was to continue on the payroll. *Novak v. Camden County Health Services Center Bd. of Managers*, 255 N.J.Super. 93, 604 A.2d 649 (A.D.1992).

Authority to regulate causes of removal and suspension. *State v. Local 195, IFPTE*, 179 N.J.Super. 146, 430 A.2d 966 (App.Div.1981) certification denied 89 N.J. 433, 446 A.2d 158.

Employee improperly removed after suspension for same infraction. *Newark v. Copeland*, 171 N.J.Super. 571, 410 A.2d 274 (App.Div.1980).

Dismissal of veterans protected by Veteran's Tenure Act in non-civil service county. *Cooper v. Imbriani*, 122 N.J.Super. 469, 300 A.2d 863 (App.Div.1973) affirmed 63 N.J. 535, 310 A.2d 457 (1973).

Bad faith in eliminating jobs; proof. *Privitera v. Treasury Department*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 693.

Proof that layoff was instituted for reason other than economy, efficiency or other related reason. *Meybohm v. Treasury Department*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 665.

No bad faith was established; jobs abolished. In the Matter of the Essex County Layoffs, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 601.

Township acted for reasons of efficiency and economy when it laid off employees. *Aiello v. Township of Brick*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 719.

Layoff of long-time employee was not in bad faith. *Accitelli v. Department of Environmental Protection and Energy*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 716.

Employees failed to prove that township acted in bad faith in laying them off. *Winslow Township Police Department Communications Operators v. Winslow Township*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 713.

County department acted for reasons of economy and efficiency in layoff. *LaMorte v. Ocean County Department of Consumer Protection*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 669.

Good faith elimination of position. *Vida v. Jersey City State College*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 594.

Elimination of former job title; not bad faith. *Barcheski v. Perth Amboy Department of Public Works*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 565.

City acted in good faith. In the Matter of Atlantic City Layoffs, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 533.

Demotion in lieu of layoff; good faith. *Murphy v. Lacey Township Police Department*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 487.

Layoff was for economic reasons. *Wright v. Department of Human Services*, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 374.

Department-wide temporary layoffs done in good faith. Department of Personnel Employees v. Department of Personnel, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 328.

Excessive absenteeism and lateness warranted removal. Thomas v. Bergen Pines County Hospital, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 316.

City utility department eliminated position in good faith. Rudolph v. Egg Harbor City Utility Department, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 313.

Good faith lay off. Dobiles v. Union County, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 274.

Elimination of code enforcement officer position was in bad faith. Sholty v. Bloomfield Township Department of Community Development and Inspections, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 221.

Layoff of borough engineering aid was in "good faith". Wudecki v. Fair Lawn Department of Engineering, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 164.

Division of Motor Vehicles acted in "good faith". Field Monitors v. Division of Motor Vehicles, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 103.

Layoff was result of compliance with environmental protection laws; laid off workers lacked necessary skills. Towns v. Carteret Borough Sewage Disposal Plant, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 99.

Layoff of city employee was in good faith. Chadwick v. Township of Lakewood, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 61.

Layoff was for reasons of economy. Cope v. Township of Parsippany-Troy Hills, 93 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 6.

Layoff; good-faith necessity to achieve economy. In the Matter of Bergen County Layoffs, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 761.

Layoff was in good faith. Jones v. New Jersey Board of Regulatory Commissioners, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 743.

Layoff of employees done in good faith. Boker v. City of Long Branch, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 661.

Layoff was for political reason. Johnston v. Camden County, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 617.

Layoff of director of occupational therapy was in good faith for reasons of economy. Gaines et al. v. Vineland Developmental Center, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 516.

Layoff of administrative analyst was in good faith for reasons of economy. Exter v. Dept. of Commerce & Economic Development, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 514.

Department of Human Services employee failed to establish that Department's decision to eliminate position was taken in bad faith. Frizino v. Department of Human Services, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 428.

Laying off of parking enforcement officer was based in good faith. Moore v. Township of Middletown, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 420.

School employee's layoff was for reasons of economy, efficiency, or other related reasons. Sparany v. Brick Township School District, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 396.

Layoff of former assistant violations clerk of borough's department of revenue and finance was not taken in good faith for reason of economy, efficiency. Glab v. Borough of Belmar, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 377.

City acted in good faith when data processing manager was laid off. Baldwin v. Department of Financial Management, Ocean City, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 367.

Layoff; good faith. Dimaria v. Department of Human Services, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 238.

"Good faith" layoff. Davis v. Department of Central Services, Camden County, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 190.

Layoff; purposes of economy and efficiency. Wooten v. Hillside Police Dept., 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 176.

There was no bad faith on the part of the appointing authority with respect to layoff rights. Loughrey v. McCorkle Training School, 92 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 13.

Layoff was in good faith. N.J.S.A. 11A:8-1, 11A:8-4. Freeman v. City of East Orange, 91 N.J.A.R.2d (CSV) 7.

Municipal layoff of permanent employees improper; proper procedures not followed; burden of proof lies with employee (citing former N.J.A.C. 4:1-16.3 and 16.6). Clark v. City of Paterson, 6 N.J.A.R. 25 (1980).

Layoff in bad faith; employees may be laid off for purposes of economy; however, CETA employees may not replace permanent employees (citing former N.J.A.C. 4:1-16.1); emergency, temporary, provisional and probationary employees must be laid off prior to permanent employees (citing former N.J.A.C. 4:1-16.2); lay off for economic purposes not to be in bad faith (citing former N.J.A.C. 4:1-16.3). Tyler et al. v. City of Paterson, 2 N.J.A.R. 272 (1979).

4A:8-1.2 Alternatives to layoff

(a) In State service, appointing authorities shall lessen the possibility of layoffs by offering and implementing, as appropriate, voluntary alternatives.

(b) In local service, appointing authorities should lessen the possibility of layoffs by considering voluntary alternatives.

(c) Alternatives to layoff may include, but are not limited to:

1. Granting of leaves of absence without pay to permanent employees, without loss of seniority for purposes of this Title, subject to the approval of the Department of Personnel;
2. Granting voluntary furloughs to employees (see N.J.A.C. 4A:6-1.23);
3. Allowing voluntary reduction of work hours by employees, which may include job sharing arrangements;
4. Providing employees with optional temporary demotional title changes; and
5. Other appropriate actions to avoid a layoff.

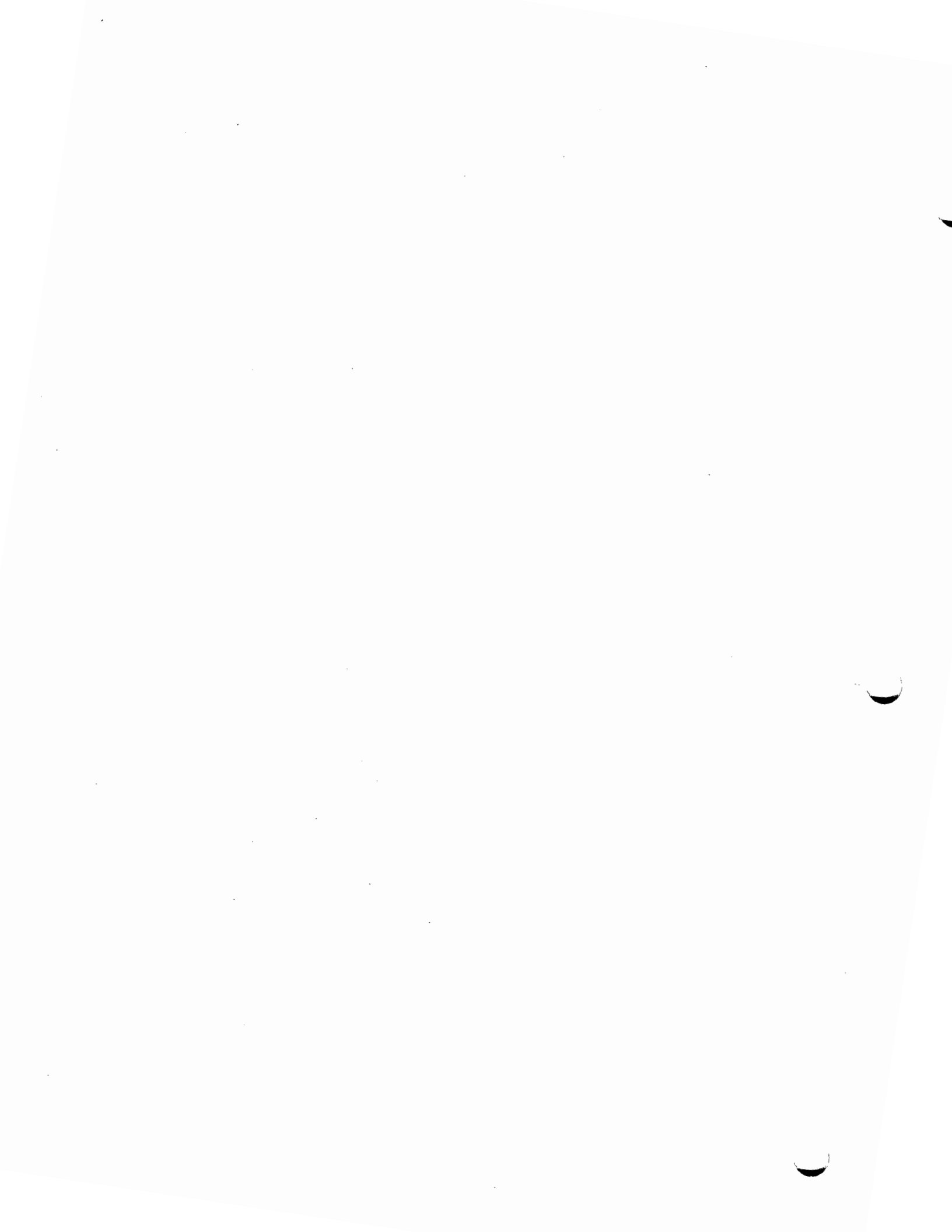
(d) Employee participation in alternatives is voluntary. Should a layoff occur despite alternative measures, employee layoff rights shall not be diminished by their participation in any such alternative measure; that is, the employee will be considered to have been serving in the original title and earning seniority in that title.

(e) Appointing authorities should consult with affected negotiations representatives prior to offering alternatives to layoff.

(f) Appointing authorities shall submit a plan for alternatives to layoff and obtain approval from the Department of Personnel prior to implementation. The plan shall include time periods for all alternatives, a statement of the employees' right to be restored to prior status should a layoff occur

during such time periods, and summaries of employee status and salary at the conclusion of time periods.

Amended by R.1995 d.251, effective May 15, 1995.
See: 27 N.J.R. 612(a), 27 N.J.R. 1967(b).



See: 27 N.J.R. 612(a), 27 N.J.R. 1967(b).

Case Notes

Insufficient notification of charges. Dept. of Law and Public Safety v. Miller, 115 N.J.Super. 122, 278 A.2d 495 (App.Div.1971).

SUBCHAPTER 2. EMPLOYEE LAYOFF RIGHTS

4A:8-2.1 Types of layoff rights

(a) A lateral title right means the right of a permanent employee to exercise displacement rights as set forth in N.J.A.C. 4A:8-2.2 against an employee in the layoff unit holding a title determined to be the same or comparable to the affected title of the employee. For a probationary employee, a lateral title right means the right to fill a vacant position or displace a provisional or probationary employee in the same title. Title comparability shall be determined by the Department of Personnel based on the following criteria:

1. The title(s) shall have substantially similar duties and responsibilities and, in State service, the same class code;
2. The education and experience requirements for the title(s) are the same or similar and the mandatory requirements shall not exceed those of the affected title;
3. There shall be no special skills, licenses, certification or registration requirements which are not also mandatory for the affected title; and
- 4. Any employee in the affected title with minimal training and orientation could perform the duties of the designated title by virtue of having qualified for the affected title.

(b) A demotional title right means the right of a permanent employee to exercise displacement rights as set forth in N.J.A.C. 4A:8-2.2 against an employee in the layoff unit holding a title determined to be lower than but related to the affected title of the employee. Demotional title rights shall be determined by the Department of Personnel based on the following criteria:

1. The title(s) shall have lower but substantially similar duties and responsibilities and, in State service, where applicable, a lower class code;
2. The education and experience requirements for the title(s) shall be similar and the mandatory requirements shall not exceed those of the affected title;
3. Special skills, licenses, certification or registration requirements shall be similar and not exceed those which are mandatory for the affected title; and
4. Any employee in the affected title with minimal training and orientation could perform the duties of the

designated title by virtue of having qualified for the affected title.

(c) A special reemployment right means the right of a permanent employee, based on his or her permanent title at the time of the layoff action, to be certified for reappointment after the layoff action to the same, lateral and lower related titles. Special reemployment rights shall be determined by the Department of Personnel in the same manner as lateral and demotional rights.

1. A special reemployment list from one governmental jurisdiction shall not be certified to another jurisdiction.

i. In local service, for purposes of this chapter, an autonomous agency shall be considered a separate jurisdiction. An autonomous agency is one which, by statute, is a body corporate and has the powers of an appointing authority.

ii. In State service, the entire State government constitutes a single jurisdiction.

(d) Employees serving in a specialized credential variant title shall have title rights based upon the special credentialing, provided that the employees are serving in a specialized credential variant title on or before submission of the layoff plan, see N.J.A.C. 4A:8-1.4. Specialized credentialing shall be based upon at least one of the following, upon approval by the Department of Personnel:

1. Licensure or certification;
2. Specialized education;
3. Specialized client-based or program experience; or
4. Service as a trainee in a specialized area of operation leading to advancement to a primary title with specialized credentialing.

(e) Affected negotiations representatives shall be given reasonable notice and permitted to be present at any meeting with individual employees where layoff rights are discussed.

(f) See N.J.A.C. 4A:8-2.2 for the exercise of lateral and demotional title rights, and see N.J.A.C. 4A:8-2.3 for the exercise of special reemployment rights.

Amended by R.1994 d.441, effective September 6, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 2182(a), 26 N.J.R. 3705(b).

Amended by R.1995 d.251, effective May 15, 1995.

See: 27 N.J.R. 612(a), 27 N.J.R. 1967(b).

Case Notes

County prosecutor's office and other offices of county governmental structure were "one governmental jurisdiction", and eligible persons on county-wide special reemployment list were entitled to fill positions in county prosecutor's office and to displace provisional appointees. Matter of Chief Clerk, 282 N.J.Super. 530, 660 A.2d 1217 (A.D.1995).

4A:8-2.2 Exercise of lateral and demotional rights

(a) In State service, a permanent employee in a position affected by a layoff action shall be provided applicable lateral and demotional title rights first at the employee's option within the municipality in which the facility or office is located, and then to the job locations selected by the employee within the department or autonomous authority. The employee shall select individual job locations in preferential order from the list of all job locations (see N.J.A.C. 4A:8-1.5(c)) and indicate:

1. Job locations at which he or she will accept lateral title rights; and
2. Job locations at which he or she will accept demotional title rights, including any restrictions based on salary range or class code.

(b) In local service, a permanent employee in a position affected by a layoff action shall be provided title rights within the layoff unit.

(c) Following the employee's selection of job location preferences, lateral and demotional title rights shall be provided in the following order:

1. A vacant position that the appointing authority has previously indicated it is willing to fill;
2. A position held by a provisional employee who does not have permanent status in another title. Where there are multiple provisional employees at a job location, the specific position shall be determined by the appointing authority;
3. A position held by a provisional employee who has permanent status in another title. Where there are multiple provisionals at a job location, the specific position shall be determined based on the level of the permanent title held and seniority;
4. The position held by the employee serving in a working test period with the least seniority;
5. In State service, and in local jurisdictions having a performance evaluation program approved by the Department of Personnel, the position held by the permanent employee whose most recent (within the last 12 months) performance rating in his or her permanent title was Significantly Below Standards or equivalent rating;
6. In State service, and in local jurisdictions having a performance evaluation program approved by the Department of Personnel, the position held by the permanent employee whose most recent (within the last 12 months) performance rating in his or her permanent title was Marginally Below Standards or equivalent rating;
7. The position held by the permanent employee with the least seniority (see N.J.A.C. 4A:8-2.4(a)).

(d) Employees serving in their working test periods shall be provided rights to their probationary titles in the same order as (c)1 through 4 above.

(e) When an employee in a professional title is granted demotional title rights to a para-professional or non-professional title, or when an employee in a para-professional title is granted demotional title rights to a non-professional title, displacement may be made only on the basis of greater permanent continuous service. See N.J.A.C. 4A:4-2.5 for definitions of professional, para-professional and non-professional titles.

(f) Demotional rights may extend beyond the employee's demotional title rights to include any title previously held on a permanent basis within current continuous service. Displacement may be made only on the basis of greater permanent continuous service except when a provisional or probationary employee is serving in the previously held title. In such cases, the provisional or probationary employee shall be subject to displacement.

1. Such extended rights shall not be granted when the employee has either lateral title rights options, or demotional title rights options to a title with a higher class code than the previously held title, within the selected job locations.

(g) Employees who are placed in trainee titles shall serve a complete training period if the trainee title is outside of either the specialized or generalized title series from which they were laid off.

Amended by R.1990 d.555, effective November 19, 1990.
See: 22 N.J.R. 2629(b), 22 N.J.R. 3482(c).

Reference to "State service" deleted; rule applies to both local and State service.

Amended by R.1995 d.251, effective May 15, 1995.
See: 27 N.J.R. 612(a), 27 N.J.R. 1967(b).

Administrative change.

See: 27 N.J.R. 2384(b).

Administrative correction.

See: 27 N.J.R. 3156(a).

Amended by R.1996 d.259, effective June 3, 1996.

See: 28 N.J.R. 1334(a), 28 N.J.R. 2839(a).

In (c)4 substituted "seniority" for "probationary time" and in (d) substituted "rights to their probationary titles" for "lateral title rights".

4A:8-2.3 Exercise of special reemployment rights

(a) A permanent employee shall be granted special reemployment rights based on the permanent title from which he or she has been laid off, demoted or displaced by job location. In addition, the employee shall be entitled to special reemployment rights to his or her previously held lateral or demotional title (see N.J.A.C. 4A:8-2.2(f)). These rights are subject to the following limitations:

1. In State service, an employee who is displaced from the municipality in which his or her facility or office was located shall, at the employee's option, be granted special reemployment rights to that municipality in addition to job locations selected by the employee.

2. An employee who is displaced by job location in a layoff action, but remains in his or her permanent title, or is reappointed to his or her permanent title from a special reemployment list, shall have special reemployment rights only to his or her original job location at the time of layoff. In cases where no facility or office remains in the original job location, the employee shall be provided the choice of another job location. As permitted by the Department of Personnel for other good cause, and upon written request by the employee with notice to the appointing authority, the employee may substitute another job location for the original job location.

3. An employee who exercises a lateral title right or who is reappointed to a lateral title from a special reemployment list shall retain special reemployment rights only to his or her original permanent title and job location at the time of the layoff. In cases where no facility or office remains in the original job location, the employee shall be provided the choice of another job location. As permitted by the Department of Personnel for other good cause, and upon written request by the employee with notice to the appointing authority, the employee may substitute another job location for the original job location.

(b) Priority of special reemployment lists shall be determined as follows:

1. Special reemployment lists shall take priority over all other reemployment lists, open competitive lists and lateral title changes pending examination (see N.J.A.C. 4A:4-7.6(c)), except those resulting from position reclassifications, for the entire jurisdiction (see N.J.A.C. 4A:8-2.1(c)(1)). Special reemployment lists shall also take priority over promotional lists for the State department, autonomous agency or local department where the layoff occurred.

2. Special reemployment lists shall also take priority over transfers and all lateral title changes except those resulting from position reclassifications within a layoff unit.

(c) A special reemployment list shall not have an expiration date. Ranking on the list shall be based on the employee's permanent title and seniority at the time of layoff, based on the method for calculating seniority in effect at the time of certification of the list. Appointments from the list shall be made in the order certified. Removal of names from a special reemployment list may be made in accordance with applicable rules (see N.J.A.C. 4A:4-4.7 and 4A:4-6). Following appointment from a special reemployment list, an employee's name shall be removed from the special reemployment list for any title with a lower class code (State service) or lower level (local service).

(d) Employees who resign or retire in lieu of lateral displacement, demotion or layoff, or who subsequently resign or retire, will not be placed or remain on a special reemployment list (see N.J.A.C. 4A:4-3.1(a)3).

(e) In State service, employees who decline reemployment to a job location will be removed from future certifications to that location for that title and all lateral or lower titles. Employees who decline reemployment to their original or substituted job location (other than the original municipality) will be certified only to the original municipality for that title and all lateral or lower titles. Employees who decline reemployment to their original municipality shall be removed from the special reemployment list for that title and all lateral or lower titles.

1. However, employees who are unavailable for work when offered reemployment due to temporary disability or other good cause shall remain on the special reemployment list. Employees who decline reemployment because the position is in a different shift from the position from which they were displaced, or because the position is full time when the position from which displaced was part-time (or vice versa) shall remain on the special reemployment list.

Amended by R.1995 d.251, effective May 15, 1995.
See: 27 N.J.R. 612(a), 27 N.J.R. 1967(b).

Case Notes

Authority to establish lists of permanent civil service employees eligible for special reemployment; generally, special reemployment list has highest priority. *Matter of Chief Clerk*, 282 N.J.Super. 530, 660 A.2d 1217 (A.D.1995).

Validity of preference rights in re-promotion based on veterans status (citing former N.J.A.C. 4:1-16.3). *Scarillo v. Dep't of Civil Service*, 146 N.J.Super. 127, 369 A.2d 26 (App.Div.1977).

Veteran's preference in regard to reemployment. *Scarillo v. Department of Civil Service*, 146 N.J.Super. 127, 369 A.2d 26 (App.Div.1977).

4A:8-2.4 Seniority

(a) Seniority for purposes of this chapter, except for police and fire titles as set forth in (b) below, is the amount of continuous permanent service in the jurisdiction, regardless of title. Seniority shall be based on total calendar years, months and days in continuous permanent service regardless of work week, work year or part-time status.

1. A resignation/new appointment pursuant to N.J.A.C. 4A:4-7.9 shall not be considered a break in continuous service.

(b) For police and fire titles in State and local service, seniority for purposes of this chapter is the amount of continuous permanent service in an employee's current permanent title and other titles that have (or would have had) lateral or demotional rights to the current permanent title. Seniority shall be based on total calendar years, months and days in title regardless of work week, work year or part-time status.

1. A police title is any law enforcement rank or title where entry level employees are required by N.J.S.A. 52:17B-66 et seq. (Police Training Act) to complete a police training course.

2. A fire title is any uniform fire department rank or title.

3. If two or more employees in a police or fire title have equal seniority, the tie shall be broken in the order of priority set forth in (h) below, except that the fifth tie-breaking factor shall give priority to the employee with greater continuous permanent service, regardless of title.

4. A county or municipal appointing authority may elect to provide, through adoption of an ordinance or resolution, as appropriate, that employees in police and fire titles may exercise previously held demotional rights, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 4A:8-2.2(f) against employees in any layoff unit in the jurisdiction. Such ordinance or resolution shall not be given effect during a layoff unless adopted at least 90 days prior to submission of the layoff plan (See N.J.A.C. 4A:8-1.4.).

(c) Preferred seniority, which means greater seniority than anyone currently serving in a demotional title, shall be provided as follows:

1. Employees with permanent status who exercise their demotional rights in a layoff action, other than to a previously held title pursuant to N.J.A.C. 4A:8-2.2(f), will have preferred seniority.

2. Employees reappointed from a special reemployment list to a lower title in the same layoff unit from which they were laid off or demoted will have preferred seniority. Records of preferred seniority shall be maintained by the appointing authority in a manner acceptable to the Department of Personnel.

3. If more than one employee has preferred seniority, priority will be determined on the basis of the class code in State service, or the class level in local service, of the permanent title from which each employee was laid off or demoted and the seniority held in the higher title.

(d) The following shall not be deducted from seniority calculations:

1. Voluntary furloughs;
2. All leaves with pay including sick leave injury (SLI);
3. Leaves without pay for the following purposes: military, educational, gubernatorial appointment, unclassified appointment, personal sick, disability, family, furlough extension and voluntary alternative to layoff;
4. In State service, employment in the Senior Executive Service, provided the employee had permanent service prior to the SES appointment; and
5. In local service, leave to fill elective public office.

(e) Suspensions, other leaves of absence without pay and any period an employee is laid off shall be deducted in calculating seniority. In State service, deductions will be made only for such suspensions, leaves of absence and periods of layoff which began on or after March 1, 1987. In local service, deductions will be made only for such suspensions, leaves of absence and periods of layoff which began on or after July 1, 1988.

(f) Employees reappointed from a special reemployment list shall be considered as having continuous service for seniority purposes; however, the elapsed time between the layoff and reappointment shall be deducted from the employee's seniority.

(g) Employees serving in their working test period shall be granted seniority based on the length of service following regular appointment. Permanent employees serving in a working test period in another title shall also continue to accrue seniority in their permanent titles. Permanent employees serving in a provisional, temporary or interim appointment shall continue to accrue seniority in their permanent titles.

(h) If two or more employees have equal seniority, the tie shall be broken in the following order of priority:

1. A disabled veteran shall have priority over a veteran. A veteran shall have priority over a non-veteran (see N.J.A.C. 4A:5-1);

2. The employee with the higher performance rating shall have priority over an employee with a lower rating, provided that all tied employees were rated by the same supervisor. In local service, the performance rating system must have been approved by the Department of Personnel.

3. The employee with the greater amount of continuous permanent service in the employee's current permanent title and other titles that have (or would have had) lateral or demotional rights to the current permanent title, shall have priority. An employee appointed to a previously held title pursuant to N.J.A.C. 4A:8-2.2(f) shall have all permanent continuous service in that title aggregated for seniority purposes;

4. The employee with the greater seniority in the title before a break in service shall have priority;

5. The employee with greater non-continuous permanent service, regardless of title, shall have priority;

6. The employee who ranked higher on the same eligible list for the title shall have priority;

7. The employee with greater continuous service as a provisional, temporary or interim appointee in the subject title shall have priority;

8. The employee with greater total service, regardless of title or status, shall have priority;