

SENATE, No. 675

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL J. DOHERTY

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

Senator EDWARD DURR

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

SYNOPSIS

Allows places of worship to establish security program to select one person to carry handgun during religious services.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/26/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning security of religious services, supplementing
2 Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes, and amending N.J.S.2C:39-
3 6.
4

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

7
8 1. (New section) a. As used in this act:

9 “Place of worship” means a building, including but not limited to
10 a church, mosque, or synagogue, used primarily as a place of public
11 or private worship on a permanent basis by a recognized and
12 established religious sect or denomination registered as a not-for-
13 profit organization pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the United
14 States Internal Revenue Code.

15 “Religious service” means an assembly of the adherents of any
16 religious sect or denomination registered as a not-for-profit
17 organization pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the United States
18 Internal Revenue Code for the purpose of prayer or any other form
19 of religious observance.

20 b. The governing body of a place of worship may establish a
21 security program to allow one person to carry a handgun for the
22 purpose of protecting attendees of a religious service held on the
23 premises of the place of worship. The person selected to carry a
24 handgun shall secure the handgun while traveling directly to or
25 from the place of worship pursuant to subparagraph (d) of
26 paragraph (3) of subsection f. of N.J.S.2C:39-6.

27 c. The governing body of a place of worship may require the
28 person selected to carry a handgun to participate in a training course
29 for the use, handling, and maintenance of firearms held by the
30 Police Training Commission, the Director of Civilian
31 Marksmanship, or by a recognized rifle or pistol association that
32 certifies instructors.

33 d. The person selected to carry a handgun may serve the place
34 of worship in a voluntary capacity or for monetary compensation.
35 The provisions of this section shall not limit a governing body of a
36 place of worship from employing an armed security officer pursuant
37 to the “Security Officer Registration Act” P.L.2004, c.134
38 (C.45:19A-1 et seq.).

39 e. The provisions of this act shall not entitle a person to carry a
40 firearm in violation of N.J.S.2C:39-6 or N.J.S.2C:58-4.

41 f. A law enforcement officer or other person authorized to
42 carry a firearm at all times in this State pursuant to N.J.S.2C:39-6
43 may serve as the person selected by the governing body of the place
44 of worship to carry a handgun. A person who is selected to carry a
45 firearm pursuant to this subsection shall not be required to comply
46 with subsection c. of this section.

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.

1 2. N.J.S.2C:39-6 is amended to read as follows:

2 2C:39-6. 1. a Provided a person complies with the
3 requirements of subsection j. of this section, N.J.S.2C:39-5 does not
4 apply to:

5 (1) Members of the Armed Forces of the United States or of the
6 National Guard while actually on duty, or while traveling between
7 places of duty and carrying authorized weapons in the manner
8 prescribed by the appropriate military authorities;

9 (2) Federal law enforcement officers, and any other federal
10 officers and employees required to carry firearms in the
11 performance of their official duties;

12 (3) Members of the State Police and, under conditions
13 prescribed by the superintendent, members of the Marine Law
14 Enforcement Bureau of the Division of State Police;

15 (4) A sheriff, undersheriff, sheriff's officer, county prosecutor,
16 assistant prosecutor, prosecutor's detective or investigator, deputy
17 attorney general or State investigator employed by the Division of
18 Criminal Justice of the Department of Law and Public Safety,
19 investigator employed by the State Commission of Investigation,
20 inspector of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Enforcement Bureau of
21 the Division of State Police in the Department of Law and Public
22 Safety authorized to carry weapons by the Superintendent of State
23 Police, State park police officer, or State conservation officer;

24 (5) Except as hereinafter provided, a State correctional police
25 officer, or a prison or jail warden of any penal institution in this
26 State or the warden's deputies, or an employee of the Department of
27 Corrections engaged in the interstate transportation of convicted
28 offenders, while in the performance of the employee's duties, and
29 when required to possess the weapon by a superior officer, or a
30 correctional police officer or keeper of a penal institution in this
31 State at all times while in the State of New Jersey, provided the
32 person annually passes an examination approved by the
33 superintendent testing the person's proficiency in the handling of
34 firearms;

35 (6) A civilian employee of the United States Government under
36 the supervision of the commanding officer of any post, camp,
37 station, base, or other military or naval installation located in this
38 State who is required, in the performance of the employee's official
39 duties, to carry firearms, and who is authorized to carry firearms by
40 the commanding officer, while in the actual performance of the
41 employee's official duties;

42 (7) (a) A regularly employed member, including a detective, of
43 the police department of any county or municipality, or of any
44 State, interstate, municipal, or county park police force or boulevard
45 police force, at all times while in the State of New Jersey;

46 (b) A special law enforcement officer authorized to carry a
47 weapon as provided in subsection b. of section 7 of P.L.1985, c.439
48 (C.40A:14-146.14);

1 (c) An airport security officer or a special law enforcement
2 officer appointed by the governing body of any county or
3 municipality, except as provided in subparagraph (b) of paragraph
4 (7) of this subsection, or by the commission, board or other body
5 having control of a county park or airport or boulevard police force,
6 while engaged in the actual performance of the officer's official
7 duties and when specifically authorized by the governing body to
8 carry weapons;

9 (8) A full-time, paid member of a paid or part-paid fire
10 department or force of any municipality who is assigned full-time
11 or part-time to an arson investigation unit created pursuant to
12 section 1 of P.L.1981, c.409 (C.40A:14-7.1) or to the county arson
13 investigation unit in the county prosecutor's office, while either
14 engaged in the actual performance of arson investigation duties or
15 while actually on call to perform arson investigation duties and
16 when specifically authorized by the governing body or the county
17 prosecutor, as the case may be, to carry weapons. Prior to being
18 permitted to carry a firearm, a member shall take and successfully
19 complete a firearms training course administered by the Police
20 Training Commission pursuant to P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et
21 seq.), and shall annually qualify in the use of a revolver or similar
22 weapon prior to being permitted to carry a firearm;

23 (9) A juvenile correctional police officer in the employment of
24 the Juvenile Justice Commission established pursuant to section 2
25 of P.L.1995, c.284 (C.52:17B-170) subject to the regulations
26 promulgated by the commission;

27 (10) A designated employee or designated licensed agent for a
28 nuclear power plant under license of the Nuclear Regulatory
29 Commission, while in the actual performance of the person's
30 official duties, if the federal licensee certifies that the designated
31 employee or designated licensed agent is assigned to perform site
32 protection, guard, armed response or armed escort duties and is
33 appropriately trained and qualified, as prescribed by federal
34 regulation, to perform those duties. Any firearm utilized by an
35 employee or agent for a nuclear power plant pursuant to this
36 paragraph shall be returned each day at the end of the employee's or
37 agent's authorized official duties to the employee's or agent's
38 supervisor. All firearms returned each day pursuant to this
39 paragraph shall be stored in locked containers located in a secure
40 area;

41 (11) A county correctional police officer at all times while in the
42 State of New Jersey, provided the officer annually passes an
43 examination approved by the superintendent testing the officer's
44 proficiency in the handling of firearms.

45 b. Subsections a., b., and c. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to:

46 (1) A law enforcement officer employed by a governmental
47 agency outside of the State of New Jersey while actually engaged in
48 the officer's official duties, provided, however, that the officer has

- 1 first notified the superintendent or the chief law enforcement officer
2 of the municipality or the prosecutor of the county in which the
3 officer is engaged; or
- 4 (2) A licensed dealer in firearms and the dealer's registered
5 employees during the course of their normal business while
6 traveling to and from their place of business and other places for the
7 purpose of demonstration, exhibition, or delivery in connection with
8 a sale, provided, however, that the weapon is carried in the manner
9 specified in subsection g. of this section.
- 10 c. Provided a person complies with the requirements of
11 subsection j. of this section, subsections b. and c. of N.J.S.2C:39-5
12 do not apply to:
- 13 (1) A special agent of the Division of Taxation who has passed
14 an examination in an approved police training program testing
15 proficiency in the handling of any firearm which the agent may be
16 required to carry, while in the actual performance of the agent's
17 official duties and while going to or from the agent's place of duty,
18 or any other police officer, while in the actual performance of the
19 officer's official duties;
- 20 (2) A State deputy conservation officer or a full-time employee
21 of the Division of Parks and Forestry having the power of arrest and
22 authorized to carry weapons, while in the actual performance of the
23 officer's official duties;
- 24 (3) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1986, c.150.)
- 25 (4) A court attendant appointed by the sheriff of the county or
26 by the judge of any municipal court or other court of this State,
27 while in the actual performance of the attendant's official duties;
- 28 (5) A guard employed by any railway express company, banking
29 or building and loan or savings and loan institution of this State,
30 while in the actual performance of the guard's official duties;
- 31 (6) A member of a legally recognized military organization
32 while actually under orders or while going to or from the prescribed
33 place of meeting and carrying the weapons prescribed for drill,
34 exercise or parade;
- 35 (7) A municipal humane law enforcement officer, authorized
36 pursuant to subsection d. of section 25 of P.L.2017, c.331 (C.4:22-
37 14.1), or humane law enforcement officer of a county society for
38 the prevention of cruelty to animals authorized pursuant to
39 subsection c. of section 29 of P.L.2017, c.331 (C.4:22-14.5), while
40 in the actual performance of the officer's duties;
- 41 (8) An employee of a public utilities corporation actually
42 engaged in the transportation of explosives;
- 43 (9) A railway policeman, except a transit police officer of the
44 New Jersey Transit Police Department, at all times while in the
45 State of New Jersey, provided that the person has passed an
46 approved police academy training program consisting of at least
47 280 hours. The training program shall include, but need not be

- 1 limited to, the handling of firearms, community relations, and
2 juvenile relations;
- 3 (10) A campus police officer appointed under P.L.1970, c.211
4 (C.18A:6-4.2 et seq.) at all times. Prior to being permitted to carry
5 a firearm, a campus police officer shall take and successfully
6 complete a firearms training course administered by the Police
7 Training Commission, pursuant to P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et
8 seq.), and shall annually qualify in the use of a revolver or similar
9 weapon prior to being permitted to carry a firearm;
- 10 (11) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2003, c.168).
- 11 (12) A transit police officer of the New Jersey Transit Police
12 Department, at all times while in the State of New Jersey, provided
13 the officer has satisfied the training requirements of the Police
14 Training Commission, pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 of
15 P.L.1989, c.291 (C.27:25-15.1);
- 16 (13) A parole officer employed by the State Parole Board at all
17 times. Prior to being permitted to carry a firearm, a parole officer
18 shall take and successfully complete a basic course for regular
19 police officer training administered by the Police Training
20 Commission, pursuant to P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.), and
21 shall annually qualify in the use of a revolver or similar weapon
22 prior to being permitted to carry a firearm;
- 23 (14) A Human Services police officer at all times while in the
24 State of New Jersey, as authorized by the Commissioner of Human
25 Services;
- 26 (15) A person or employee of any person who, pursuant to and
27 as required by a contract with a governmental entity, supervises or
28 transports persons charged with or convicted of an offense;
- 29 (16) A housing authority police officer appointed under
30 P.L.1997, c.210 (C.40A:14-146.19 et al.) at all times while in the
31 State of New Jersey; or
- 32 (17) A probation officer assigned to the "Probation Officer
33 Community Safety Unit" created by section 2 of P.L.2001, c.362
34 (C.2B:10A-2) while in the actual performance of the probation
35 officer's official duties. Prior to being permitted to carry a firearm,
36 a probation officer shall take and successfully complete a basic
37 course for regular police officer training administered by the Police
38 Training Commission, pursuant to P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et
39 seq.), and shall annually qualify in the use of a revolver or similar
40 weapon prior to being permitted to carry a firearm.
- 41 d. (1) Subsections c. and d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to
42 antique firearms, provided that the antique firearms are unloaded or
43 are being fired for the purposes of exhibition or demonstration at an
44 authorized target range or in another manner approved in writing by
45 the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality in which the
46 exhibition or demonstration is held, or if not held on property under
47 the control of a particular municipality, the superintendent.

1 (2) Subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-3 and subsection d. of
2 N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to an antique cannon that is capable of
3 being fired but that is unloaded and immobile, provided that the
4 antique cannon is possessed by (a) a scholastic institution, a
5 museum, a municipality, a county or the State, or (b) a person who
6 obtained a firearms purchaser identification card as specified in
7 N.J.S.2C:58-3.

8 (3) Subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-3 and subsection d. of
9 N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to an unloaded antique cannon that is
10 being transported by one eligible to possess it, in compliance with
11 regulations the superintendent may promulgate, between its
12 permanent location and place of purchase or repair.

13 (4) Subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-3 and subsection d. of
14 N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to antique cannons that are being loaded
15 or fired by one eligible to possess an antique cannon, for purposes
16 of exhibition or demonstration at an authorized target range or in
17 the manner as has been approved in writing by the chief law
18 enforcement officer of the municipality in which the exhibition or
19 demonstration is held, or if not held on property under the control
20 of a particular municipality, the superintendent, provided that
21 performer has given at least 30 days' notice to the superintendent.

22 (5) Subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-3 and subsection d. of
23 N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to the transportation of unloaded
24 antique cannons directly to or from exhibitions or demonstrations
25 authorized under paragraph (4) of subsection d. of this section,
26 provided that the transportation is in compliance with safety
27 regulations the superintendent may promulgate. Those subsections
28 shall not apply to transportation directly to or from exhibitions or
29 demonstrations authorized under the law of another jurisdiction,
30 provided that the superintendent has been given 30 days' notice and
31 that the transportation is in compliance with safety regulations the
32 superintendent may promulgate.

33 e. Nothing in subsections b., c., and d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall
34 be construed to prevent a person keeping or carrying about the
35 person's place of business, residence, premises, or other land owned
36 or possessed by the person, any firearm, or from carrying the same,
37 in the manner specified in subsection g. of this section, from any
38 place of purchase to the person's residence or place of business,
39 between the person's dwelling and place of business, between one
40 place of business or residence and another when moving, or
41 between the person's dwelling or place of business and place where
42 the firearms are repaired, for the purpose of repair. For the
43 purposes of this section, a place of business shall be deemed to be a
44 fixed location.

45 f. Nothing in subsections b., c., and d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall
46 be construed to prevent:

47 (1) A member of any rifle or pistol club organized in accordance
48 with the rules prescribed by the National Board for the Promotion

1 of Rifle Practice, in going to or from a place of target practice,
2 carrying firearms necessary for target practice, provided that the
3 club has filed a copy of its charter with the superintendent and
4 annually submits a list of its members to the superintendent and
5 provided further that the firearms are carried in the manner
6 specified in subsection g. of this section;

7 (2) A person carrying a firearm or knife in the woods or fields
8 or upon the waters of this State for the purpose of hunting, target
9 practice or fishing, provided that the firearm or knife is legal and
10 appropriate for hunting or fishing purposes in this State and the
11 person has in possession a valid hunting license, or, with respect to
12 fresh water fishing, a valid fishing license;

13 (3) A person transporting any firearm or knife while traveling:

14 (a) Directly to or from any place for the purpose of hunting or
15 fishing, provided the person has in possession a valid hunting or
16 fishing license; or

17 (b) Directly to or from any target range, or other authorized
18 place for the purpose of practice, match, target, trap or skeet
19 shooting exhibitions, provided in all cases that during the course of
20 the travel all firearms are carried in the manner specified in
21 subsection g. of this section and the person has complied with all
22 the provisions and requirements of Title 23 of the Revised Statutes
23 and any amendments thereto and all rules and regulations
24 promulgated thereunder; **[or]**

25 (c) In the case of a firearm, directly to or from any exhibition or
26 display of firearms which is sponsored by any law enforcement
27 agency, any rifle or pistol club, or any firearms collectors club, for
28 the purpose of displaying the firearms to the public or to the
29 members of the organization or club, provided, however, that not
30 less than 30 days prior to the exhibition or display, notice of the
31 exhibition or display shall be given to the Superintendent of the
32 State Police by the sponsoring organization or club, and the sponsor
33 has complied with any reasonable safety regulations the
34 superintendent may promulgate. Any firearms transported pursuant
35 to this section shall be transported in the manner specified in
36 subsection g. of this section; or

37 (d) In the case of a person who is not authorized to carry a
38 firearm at all times in this State but is authorized to carry a handgun
39 pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
40 the Legislature as this bill), directly to or from a place of worship,
41 provided in all cases that during the course of the travel the
42 handgun is carried in the manner specified in subsection g. of this
43 section.

44 (4) A person from keeping or carrying about a private or
45 commercial aircraft or any boat, or from transporting to or from the
46 aircraft or boat for the purpose of installation or repair of a visual
47 distress signaling device approved by the United States Coast
48 Guard.

1 g. Any weapon being transported under paragraph (2) of
2 subsection b., subsection e., or paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection f.
3 of this section shall be carried unloaded and contained in a closed
4 and fastened case, gunbox, securely tied package, or locked in the
5 trunk of the automobile in which it is being transported, and in the
6 course of travel shall include only deviations as are reasonably
7 necessary under the circumstances.

8 h. Nothing in subsection d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed
9 to prevent any employee of a public utility, as defined in R.S.48:2-
10 13, doing business in this State or any United States Postal Service
11 employee, while in the actual performance of duties which
12 specifically require regular and frequent visits to private premises,
13 from possessing, carrying or using any device which projects,
14 releases or emits any substance specified as being noninjurious to
15 canines or other animals by the Commissioner of Health and which
16 immobilizes only on a temporary basis and produces only
17 temporary physical discomfort through being vaporized or
18 otherwise dispensed in the air for the sole purpose of repelling
19 canine or other animal attacks.

20 The device shall be used solely to repel only those canine or
21 other animal attacks when the canines or other animals are not
22 restrained in a fashion sufficient to allow the employee to properly
23 perform the employee's duties.

24 Any device used pursuant to this act shall be selected from a list
25 of products, which consist of active and inert ingredients, permitted
26 by the Commissioner of Health.

27 i. (1) Nothing in N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed to prevent
28 any person who is 18 years of age or older and who has not been
29 convicted of a crime, from possession for the purpose of personal
30 self-defense of one pocket-sized device which contains and releases
31 not more than three-quarters of an ounce of chemical substance not
32 ordinarily capable of lethal use or of inflicting serious bodily injury,
33 but rather, is intended to produce temporary physical discomfort or
34 disability through being vaporized or otherwise dispensed in the air.
35 Any person in possession of any device in violation of this
36 subsection shall be deemed and adjudged to be a disorderly person,
37 and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less
38 than \$100.

39 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this
40 subsection, nothing in N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed to prevent a
41 health inspector or investigator operating pursuant to the provisions
42 of section 7 of P.L.1977, c.443 (C.26:3A2-25) or a building
43 inspector from possessing a device which is capable of releasing
44 more than three-quarters of an ounce of a chemical substance, as
45 described in paragraph (1), while in the actual performance of the
46 inspector's or investigator's duties, provided that the device does not
47 exceed the size of those used by law enforcement.

1 j. A person shall qualify for an exemption from the provisions
2 of N.J.S.2C:39-5, as specified under subsections a. and c. of this
3 section, if the person has satisfactorily completed a firearms
4 training course approved by the Police Training Commission.

5 The exempt person shall not possess or carry a firearm until the
6 person has satisfactorily completed a firearms training course and
7 shall annually qualify in the use of a revolver or similar weapon.
8 For purposes of this subsection, a "firearms training course" means
9 a course of instruction in the safe use, maintenance and storage of
10 firearms which is approved by the Police Training Commission.
11 The commission shall approve a firearms training course if the
12 requirements of the course are substantially equivalent to the
13 requirements for firearms training provided by police training
14 courses which are certified under section 6 of P.L.1961, c.56
15 (C.52:17B-71). A person who is specified in paragraph (1), (2), (3),
16 or (6) of subsection a. of this section shall be exempt from the
17 requirements of this subsection.

18 k. Nothing in subsection d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed
19 to prevent any financial institution, or any duly authorized
20 personnel of the institution, from possessing, carrying or using for
21 the protection of money or property, any device which projects,
22 releases or emits tear gas or other substances intended to produce
23 temporary physical discomfort or temporary identification.

24 l. Nothing in subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed
25 to prevent a law enforcement officer who retired in good standing,
26 including a retirement because of a disability pursuant to section 6
27 of P.L.1944, c.255 (C.43:16A-6), section 7 of P.L.1944, c.255
28 (C.43:16A-7), section 1 of P.L.1989, c.103 (C.43:16A-6.1), or any
29 substantially similar statute governing the disability retirement of
30 federal law enforcement officers, provided the officer was a
31 regularly employed, full-time law enforcement officer for an
32 aggregate of four or more years prior to the officer's disability
33 retirement and further provided that the disability which constituted
34 the basis for the officer's retirement did not involve a certification
35 that the officer was mentally incapacitated for the performance of
36 the officer's usual law enforcement duties and any other available
37 duty in the department which the officer's employer was willing to
38 assign to the officer or does not subject that retired officer to any of
39 the disabilities set forth in subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:58-3 which
40 would disqualify the retired officer from possessing or carrying a
41 firearm, who semi-annually qualifies in the use of the handgun the
42 officer is permitted to carry in accordance with the requirements
43 and procedures established by the Attorney General pursuant to
44 subsection j. of this section and pays the actual costs associated
45 with those semi-annual qualifications, who is 75 years of age or
46 younger, and who was regularly employed as a full-time member of
47 the State Police; a full-time member of an interstate police force; a
48 full-time member of a county or municipal police department in this

1 State; a full-time member of a State law enforcement agency; a full-
2 time sheriff, undersheriff or sheriff's officer of a county of this
3 State; a full-time State correctional police officer or county
4 correctional police officer; a full-time State or county park police
5 officer; a full-time special agent of the Division of Taxation; a full-
6 time Human Services police officer; a full-time transit police officer
7 of the New Jersey Transit Police Department; a full-time campus
8 police officer exempted pursuant to paragraph (10) of subsection c.
9 of this section; a full-time State conservation officer exempted
10 pursuant to paragraph (4) of subsection a. of this section; a full-time
11 Palisades Interstate Park officer appointed pursuant to R.S.32:14-
12 21; a full-time Burlington County Bridge police officer appointed
13 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1960, c.168 (C.27:19-36.3); a full-time
14 housing authority police officer exempted pursuant to paragraph
15 (16) of subsection c. of this section; a full-time juvenile correctional
16 police officer exempted pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection a.
17 of this section; a full-time parole officer exempted pursuant to
18 paragraph (13) of subsection c. of this section; a full-time railway
19 policeman exempted pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection c. of
20 this section; a full-time county prosecutor's detective or
21 investigator; a full-time federal law enforcement officer; or is a
22 qualified retired law enforcement officer, as used in the federal
23 "Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004," Pub.L. 108-277,
24 domiciled in this State from carrying a handgun in the same manner
25 as law enforcement officers exempted under paragraph (7) of
26 subsection a. of this section under the conditions provided herein:

27 (1) The retired law enforcement officer shall make application
28 in writing to the Superintendent of State Police for approval to carry
29 a handgun for one year. An application for annual renewal shall be
30 submitted in the same manner.

31 (2) Upon receipt of the written application of the retired law
32 enforcement officer, the superintendent shall request a verification
33 of service from the chief law enforcement officer of the
34 organization in which the retired officer was last regularly
35 employed as a full-time law enforcement officer prior to retiring.
36 The verification of service shall include:

37 (a) The name and address of the retired officer;

38 (b) The date that the retired officer was hired and the date that
39 the officer retired;

40 (c) A list of all handguns known to be registered to that officer;

41 (d) A statement that, to the reasonable knowledge of the chief
42 law enforcement officer, the retired officer is not subject to any of
43 the restrictions set forth in subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:58-3; and

44 (e) A statement that the officer retired in good standing.

45 (3) If the superintendent approves a retired officer's application
46 or reapplication to carry a handgun pursuant to the provisions of
47 this subsection, the superintendent shall notify in writing the chief
48 law enforcement officer of the municipality wherein that retired

1 officer resides. In the event the retired officer resides in a
2 municipality which has no chief law enforcement officer or law
3 enforcement agency, the superintendent shall maintain a record of
4 the approval.

5 (4) The superintendent shall issue to an approved retired officer
6 an identification card permitting the retired officer to carry a
7 handgun pursuant to this subsection. This identification card shall
8 be valid for one year from the date of issuance and shall be valid
9 throughout the State. The identification card shall not be
10 transferable to any other person. The identification card shall be
11 carried at all times on the person of the retired officer while the
12 retired officer is carrying a handgun. The retired officer shall
13 produce the identification card for review on the demand of any law
14 enforcement officer or authority.

15 (5) Any person aggrieved by the denial of the superintendent of
16 approval for a permit to carry a handgun pursuant to this subsection
17 may request a hearing in the Superior Court of New Jersey in the
18 county in which the person resides by filing a written request for a
19 hearing within 30 days of the denial. Copies of the request shall be
20 served upon the superintendent and the county prosecutor. The
21 hearing shall be held within 30 days of the filing of the request, and
22 no formal pleading or filing fee shall be required. Appeals from the
23 determination of the hearing shall be in accordance with law and the
24 rules governing the courts of this State.

25 (6) A judge of the Superior Court may revoke a retired officer's
26 privilege to carry a handgun pursuant to this subsection for good
27 cause shown on the application of any interested person. A person
28 who becomes subject to any of the disabilities set forth in
29 subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:58-3 shall surrender, as prescribed by the
30 superintendent, the person's identification card issued under
31 paragraph (4) of this subsection to the chief law enforcement officer
32 of the municipality wherein the person resides or the
33 superintendent, and shall be permanently disqualified to carry a
34 handgun under this subsection.

35 (7) The superintendent may charge a reasonable application fee
36 to retired officers to offset any costs associated with administering
37 the application process set forth in this subsection.

38 m. Nothing in subsection d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed
39 to prevent duly authorized personnel of the New Jersey Division of
40 Fish and Wildlife, while in the actual performance of duties, from
41 possessing, transporting or using any device that projects, releases
42 or emits any substance specified as being non-injurious to wildlife
43 by the Director of the Division of Animal Health in the Department
44 of Agriculture, and which may immobilize wildlife and produces
45 only temporary physical discomfort through being vaporized or
46 otherwise dispensed in the air for the purpose of repelling bear or
47 other animal attacks or for the aversive conditioning of wildlife.

1 n. Nothing in subsection b., c., d. or e. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall
2 be construed to prevent duly authorized personnel of the New
3 Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, while in the actual
4 performance of duties, from possessing, transporting or using hand
5 held pistol-like devices, rifles or shotguns that launch pyrotechnic
6 missiles for the sole purpose of frightening, hazing or aversive
7 conditioning of nuisance or depredating wildlife; from possessing,
8 transporting or using rifles, pistols or similar devices for the sole
9 purpose of chemically immobilizing wild or non-domestic animals;
10 or, provided the duly authorized person complies with the
11 requirements of subsection j. of this section, from possessing,
12 transporting or using rifles or shotguns, upon completion of a Police
13 Training Commission approved training course, in order to dispatch
14 injured or dangerous animals or for non-lethal use for the purpose
15 of frightening, hazing or aversive conditioning of nuisance or
16 depredating wildlife.

17 o. Nothing in subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed
18 to prevent a person authorized to carry a handgun in a place of
19 worship while in the actual performance of securities duties
20 pursuant to section 1 of P.L. _____, c. _____ (C. _____) (pending before
21 the Legislature as this bill).

22 (cf: P.L.2019, c.219, s.5)

23

24 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

28

29 This bill allows the governing body of a place of worship to
30 establish a security program by selecting one person to carry a
31 handgun for the purpose of protecting religious service attendees.
32 The bill defines “place of worship” as a building, including but not
33 limited to a church, mosque or synagogue, used primarily as a place
34 of public or private worship on a permanent basis by a recognized
35 and established religious sect or denomination registered as a not-
36 for-profit under the United States Internal Revenue Code.

37 Under the bill, the place of worship may require the selected
38 person to participate in a firearms training course held by the Police
39 Training Commission, the Director of Civilian Marksmanship, or a
40 recognized rifle or pistol association that certifies instructors. The
41 bill provides that the selected person may serve in a voluntary
42 capacity or for monetary compensation.

43 In addition, the selected person may transport the firearm
44 directly to and from person’s residence and the place of worship.
45 The selected person would be subject to all other requirements
46 imposed under current law regarding the right to carry a firearm.

47 The bill would not prohibit a place of worship from hiring an
48 armed security officer or allowing a law enforcement officer or

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1 other person entitled to carry a firearm at all times in this State from
2 serving as the person selected for the security program.
3 On November 5, 2017, a mass shooting occurred at the First
4 Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas during which 26
5 people were killed and 20 others were injured. The shooter, Devin
6 Patrick Kelley, was shot twice by a civilian as he exited the church
7 and was later found dead in his motor vehicle following a high
8 speed chase. It is the sponsor's intent to prohibit similar incidents
9 from occurring by allowing places of worship to establish a security
10 program.