

**SENATE, No. 2742**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**220th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED JUNE 2, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Senator TROY SINGLETON**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Concerns licensing of law enforcement officers; appropriates \$6 million.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning licensing of law enforcement officers by the  
2 Police Training Commission, amending, supplementing, and  
3 repealing various parts of the statutory law, and making an  
4 appropriation.

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

8  
9 1. Section 1 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66) is amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 The Legislature of New Jersey hereby finds and declares that a  
12 serious need for improvement in the administration of local and  
13 county law enforcement exists in order to better protect the health,  
14 safety and welfare of its citizens; that police work, a basic adjunct  
15 of law enforcement administration, is professional in nature, and  
16 requires proper educational and clinical training in a State whose  
17 population is increasing in relation to its physical area, and in a  
18 society where greater reliance on better law enforcement through  
19 higher standards of efficiency is of paramount need; that the present  
20 need for improvement can be substantially met by the creation of a  
21 compulsory educational and training program for persons who seek  
22 to become permanent law enforcement officers wherein such  
23 persons will be required, while serving in a probationary capacity  
24 prior to permanent appointment, to receive efficient training in this  
25 profession provided at facilities selected, approved and inspected  
26 by a commission created for such purpose; and that by qualifying  
27 and becoming proficient in the field of law enforcement such  
28 persons shall individually and collectively better insure the health,  
29 safety and welfare of the citizens of this State in their respective  
30 communities.

31 The Legislature further finds and declares that, in addition to  
32 providing proper educational and clinical training to law  
33 enforcement officers in this State, it is also important, in order to  
34 help protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens, that  
35 appropriately-situated State authorities are accorded the ability and  
36 responsibility to monitor and take appropriate action against any  
37 law enforcement officer who acts outside the bounds of  
38 professionalism or engages in illegal or improper conduct.  
39 Professional licensure provides the means to help ensure that those  
40 individuals who serve as law enforcement officers in this State  
41 uphold the public trust by meeting and maintaining appropriately  
42 high standards of training and professionalism, in qualifying for the  
43 positions, and in performing the duties. Therefore, it is necessary  
44 and appropriate to establish a Statewide licensure system, through  
45 which the Police Training Commission will promulgate and apply  
46 uniform standards of professional conduct by law enforcement  
47 officers, establish minimum standards for licensure, review and take

**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 action on initial and renewal applications of applicants and law  
2 enforcement officers and applicants who meet those standards, and  
3 deny, revoke, or suspend licenses due to failure to meet or maintain  
4 those standards.

5 Nothing in this act is intended to limit in any manner the powers  
6 and authority granted to the Attorney General as the chief law  
7 enforcement officer of the State pursuant to the Criminal Justice  
8 Act of 1970, P.L.1970, c.74 (C.52:17B-97 et seq.).

9 (cf: P.L.1965, c.8, s.1)

10

11 2. Section 2 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-67) is amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 2. As used in this act:

14 “Applicant” means an individual who applies to the Police  
15 Training Commission to become licensed as a law enforcement  
16 officer in accordance with P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
17 Legislature as this bill).

18 "Approved school" shall mean a school approved and authorized  
19 by the Police Training Commission to give police training courses  
20 or a training course for State and county correctional police officers  
21 and juvenile detention officers as prescribed in this act.

22 "Commission" shall mean the Police Training Commission or  
23 officers or employees thereof acting on its behalf.

24 "County" shall mean any county which within its jurisdiction has  
25 or shall have a law enforcement unit as defined in this act.

26 “Discipline subject to appeal” means a removal, disciplinary  
27 demotion, suspension, or fine of more than five days, or fewer  
28 where the aggregate number of days the employee was suspended  
29 or fined in any one calendar year is 15 or more days or where the  
30 employee received more than three suspensions or fines of five days  
31 or fewer in one calendar year.

32 “Law enforcement officer” means any person who is employed  
33 as a sworn member of any State, county, or municipal law  
34 enforcement agency, department, or division of those governments  
35 who is statutorily empowered to act for the detection, investigation,  
36 arrest, conviction, detention, or rehabilitation of persons violating  
37 the criminal laws of the State. This term shall include, but is not  
38 limited to, sworn members of the New Jersey State Police, the  
39 Division of Criminal Justice, and the Juvenile Justice Commission;  
40 State correctional police officers pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1968,  
41 c.427 (C.2A:154-4); county correctional police officers pursuant to  
42 N.J.S.2A:154-3; State Parole officers pursuant to section 1 of  
43 P.L.1968, c.427 (C.2A:154-4); special law enforcement officers of  
44 all classes pursuant to P.L.1985, c.439 (C.40A:14-146.8 et seq.);  
45 humane law enforcement officers appointed pursuant to section 25  
46 of P.L.2017, c.331 (C.4:22-14.1) or section 28 of P.L.2017, c.331  
47 (C.4:22-14.4); and campus police officers appointed pursuant to  
48 P.L.1970, c.211 (C.18A:6-4.2 et seq.).

1 "Law enforcement unit" shall mean any **【**police force or  
2 organization in a municipality or county which has by statute or  
3 ordinance the responsibility of detecting crime and enforcing the  
4 general criminal laws of this**】** State, county or municipal law  
5 enforcement agency, department, or division of such government  
6 that is statutorily empowered to act for the detection, investigation,  
7 arrest, conviction, detention, or rehabilitation of persons violating  
8 the criminal laws of the State, and shall include all agencies that  
9 employ law enforcement officers as defined in this section.

10 "Licensing committee" means the committee established by the  
11 Police Training Commission to perform duties with respect to law  
12 enforcement officer licensing as set forth in subsection c. of section  
13 9 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this  
14 bill).

15 "Municipality" shall mean a city of any class, township, borough,  
16 village, **【**camp meeting association,**】** or any other type of  
17 municipality in this State which, within its jurisdiction, has or shall  
18 have a law enforcement unit as defined in this act.

19 "Permanent appointment" shall mean an appointment having  
20 permanent status as a **【**police**】** law enforcement officer in a law  
21 enforcement unit as prescribed by Title 11A of the New Jersey  
22 Statutes, Civil Service Commission Rules and Regulations, or of  
23 any other law of this State, municipal ordinance, or rules and  
24 regulations adopted thereunder.

25 **【**"Police officer" shall mean any employee of a law enforcement  
26 unit, including sheriff's officers and county investigators in the  
27 office of the county prosecutor, other than civilian heads thereof,  
28 assistant prosecutors and legal assistants, persons appointed  
29 pursuant to the provisions of R.S.40:47-19, persons whose duties do  
30 not include any police function, court attendants, State and county  
31 correctional police officers, juvenile correctional police officers,  
32 and juvenile detention officers.**】**

33 "Police training course" means a training course approved by the  
34 Police Training Commission and conducted at an approved school.

35 "Probationary law enforcement license" means a license issued  
36 by the Police Training Commission to a person appointed by a law  
37 enforcement unit on a probationary or temporary basis which  
38 authorizes the person to perform the functions of a permanent law  
39 enforcement officer during the person's probationary or temporary  
40 appointment term.

41 (cf: P.L.2019, c.219, s.8)

42

43 3. Section 3 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-68) is amended to  
44 read as follows:

45 3. a. Every **【**municipality and **】** State, county, and municipal  
46 agency, with the exception of the New Jersey State Police, that  
47 employs law enforcement officers as defined in section 2 of  
48 P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-67), as applicable, shall authorize

1 attendance at an approved school by persons holding a probationary  
2 appointment as a **[police]** law enforcement officer, and every  
3 **[municipality and county]** agency shall require that no person shall  
4 hereafter be given or accept a permanent appointment as a **[police]**  
5 law enforcement officer unless such person has successfully  
6 completed a police training course at an approved school; provided,  
7 however, that the commission may, in its discretion, except from  
8 the requirements of this section any person who demonstrates to the  
9 commission's satisfaction that **[he]** the person has successfully  
10 completed a police training course conducted by any Federal, State  
11 or other public or private agency, the requirements of which are  
12 substantially equivalent to the requirements of this act.

13 b. A **[police]** law enforcement officer who is terminated from  
14 an agency for reasons of economy or efficiency shall be granted an  
15 exemption or waiver from retaking the basic training course if,  
16 within **[five]** three years from the date of termination, the **[police]**  
17 law enforcement officer is appointed to a similar law enforcement  
18 position in another agency or is reemployed by the agency from  
19 which **[he]** the officer was terminated.

20 (cf: P.L.2011, c.158, s.1)

21

22 4. Section 4 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-69) is amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 4. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S.11:2-6, a  
25 probationary or temporary appointment as a **[police]** law  
26 enforcement officer may be made for a total period not exceeding  
27 one year for the purpose of enabling a person seeking permanent  
28 appointment to take a police training course as prescribed in this  
29 act, provided, however, that the time period may exceed one year  
30 for those persons enrolled prior to the one-year limit in a police  
31 training course scheduled to end subsequent to the one-year limit,  
32 and for those persons who, prior to the one-year limit, have been  
33 scheduled to attend a police training course which commences  
34 subsequent to the one-year limit. In no case shall any extension  
35 granted for the reasons herein listed exceed six months. Every  
36 person holding such a probationary or temporary appointment shall  
37 enroll in a police training course, and such appointee shall be  
38 entitled to a leave of absence with pay during the period of the  
39 police training course.

40 b. A person holding a probationary or temporary appointment  
41 on the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
42 Legislature as this bill) shall not be permitted to continue in the  
43 probationary or temporary appointment beyond one year after the  
44 effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
45 Legislature as this bill) unless the person enrolls in or completes a  
46 basic training course approved by the commission.

47 c. A person appointed on a probationary or temporary basis on  
48 or after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before

1 the Legislature as this bill) shall not perform the functions or duties  
2 of a permanently appointed law enforcement officer unless the  
3 person completes a basic training course approved by the  
4 commission. Upon successful completion of the basic training  
5 course, a person appointed on a probationary or temporary basis on  
6 or after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before  
7 the Legislature as this bill) shall receive from the commission a  
8 one-year probationary law enforcement license, as defined in  
9 section 2 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-67), and the person shall be  
10 permitted to perform full police functions or duties during the  
11 person's probationary or temporary appointment.

12 d. Upon successful completion of a probationary or temporary  
13 appointment, a person may apply for licensure as a permanent law  
14 enforcement officer in a manner prescribed by the commission  
15 pursuant to P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as  
16 this bill).

17 (cf: P.L.1998, c.146, s.1)

18

19 5. Section 2 of P.L.1998, c.146 (C.52:17B-69.1) is amended to  
20 read as follows:

21 2. a. A person who does not hold a probationary or temporary  
22 appointment as a **police** law enforcement officer, but who is  
23 seeking such an appointment may enroll in a police training course  
24 provided that person:

25 (1) meets the general qualifications for a police officer set forth  
26 in N.J.S.40A:14-122 and such other qualifications as the  
27 commission may deem appropriate; and

28 (2) applies to and is accepted by a commission approved school  
29 for admission to a police training course.

30 The person may be charged a fee by the commission or approved  
31 school, as the case may be, not exceeding that which the  
32 commission approved school charges a governmental employer for  
33 the training of an employee holding a probationary or temporary  
34 appointment.

35 An appointing authority may, at its discretion, reimburse a  
36 person who has completed a police training course pursuant to this  
37 section for all or part of the costs of training.

38 b. The commission, in accordance with the provisions of the  
39 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
40 seq.), shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the  
41 purposes of this section.

42 (cf: P.L.1998, c.146, s.2)

43

44 6. Section 3 of P.L.1998, c.146 (C.52:17B-69.2) is amended to  
45 read as follows:

46 3. A person who completes a police training course pursuant to  
47 section 2 of P.L.1998, c.146 (C.52:17B-69.1) shall only be eligible  
48 for appointment as a permanent full-time member of a **police**

1 department or force] law enforcement unit or as a Class Two  
2 Special Law Enforcement Officer pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1985,  
3 c.439 (C.40A:14-146.11).  
4 (cf: P.L.1998, c.146, s.3)  
5

6 7. Section 5 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-70) is amended to  
7 read as follows:

8 5. There is hereby established in the Division of Criminal  
9 Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety a Police  
10 Training Commission whose membership shall consist of the  
11 following persons:

12 a. **【Two】** Four citizens of this State who shall be appointed by  
13 the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate for terms of  
14 three years **【commencing with the expiration of the terms of the**  
15 **citizen members, other than the representative of the New Jersey**  
16 **Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, now in office】.**

17 b. The president or other representative designated in  
18 accordance with the bylaws of each of the following organizations:  
19 the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police; the New  
20 Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association, Inc.; the New  
21 Jersey State League of Municipalities; the New Jersey State Lodge,  
22 Fraternal Order of Police; the State Troopers Fraternal Association  
23 of New Jersey; the County Prosecutors' Association of New Jersey;  
24 the Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey; the Police Academy  
25 Directors Association; the New Jersey County Jail Wardens  
26 Association; the New Jersey Juvenile Detention Association; and  
27 the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.

28 c. The Attorney General, the Superintendent of State Police,  
29 the Commissioner of Education, **【the Secretary of Higher**  
30 **Education,】** the Commissioner of Corrections, and the Chairman of  
31 the State Parole Board, ex officio, or **【when so designated by**  
32 **them,】** their **【deputies】** designees.

33 d. The Special Agent in Charge of the State of New Jersey for  
34 the Federal Bureau of Investigation or a designated representative.

35 e. The Police Training Commission shall ensure that all  
36 commission members, during their tenure as commissioners,  
37 annually complete confidentiality, ethics, and other training as  
38 required by the Attorney General's Office. The commission shall  
39 also ensure that all newly appointed public members of the  
40 commission complete a course designed to familiarize the members  
41 with relevant law enforcement training concepts, including but not  
42 limited to the use of force policy and internal affairs policy and  
43 procedures to help the members carry out their duties under P.L. . . .  
44 c. (C. . . .) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

45 (cf: P.L.2015, c.258, s.1)  
46

47 8. Section 6 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-71) is amended to  
48 read as follows:

1       6. The commission **【is vested with the power, responsibility**  
2 **and duty:】** shall establish requisite standards for the training of law  
3 enforcement officers and oversee the implementation of those  
4 standards.

5       The commission shall have the authority:

6       6. a. To prescribe standards for the approval and continuation of  
7 approval of schools at which police training courses authorized by  
8 this act and in-service police training courses shall be conducted,  
9 including but not limited to currently existing regional, county,  
10 municipal, and police chief association police training schools or at  
11 which basic training courses and in-service training courses shall be  
12 conducted for State and county juvenile and adult correctional  
13 police officers and juvenile detention officers;

14       b. To approve and issue certificates of approval to these  
15 schools, to inspect the schools from time to time, and to revoke any  
16 approval or certificate issued to the schools;

17       c. To prescribe the curriculum, the minimum courses of study,  
18 attendance requirements, equipment and facilities, and standards of  
19 operation for these schools**【.Courses of study in crime prevention**  
20 **may be recommended to the Police Training Commission by the**  
21 **Crime Prevention Advisory Committee, established by section 2 of**  
22 **P.L.1985, c.1 (C.52:17B-77.1). The Police Training Commission**  
23 **may】** and prescribe psychological and psychiatric examinations for  
24 police recruits **【while in the schools】**;

25       d. To prescribe minimum qualifications for instructors at these  
26 schools and to certify, as qualified, instructors for approved police  
27 training schools and to issue appropriate certificates to the  
28 instructors;

29       e. To certify **【police officers, correctional police officers,**  
30 **juvenile correctional police officers, and juvenile detention】** law  
31 enforcement officers who have satisfactorily completed training  
32 programs and to issue appropriate certificates to **【the police**  
33 **officers, correctional police officers, juvenile correctional police**  
34 **officers, and juvenile detention】** the officers;

35       f. To advise and consent in the appointment of an  
36 administrator of police services by the Attorney General pursuant to  
37 section 8 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-73);

38       g. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1985, c.491)

39       h. To make rules and regulations as may be reasonably  
40 necessary or appropriate to accomplish the purposes and objectives  
41 of this act;

42       i. To make a continuous study of police training methods and  
43 training methods for **【correctional police officers, juvenile**  
44 **correctional police officers, and juvenile detention】** law  
45 enforcement officers and to consult and accept the cooperation of  
46 any recognized federal or State law enforcement agency or  
47 educational institution;



- 1 j. To consult and cooperate with universities, colleges, and  
2 institutes in the State for the development of specialized courses of  
3 study for **【police】** law enforcement officers in police science and  
4 police administration;
- 5 k. To consult and cooperate with other departments and  
6 agencies of the State concerned with police training or the training  
7 of **【correctional police officers, juvenile correctional police**  
8 **officers, and juvenile detention】** law enforcement officers;
- 9 l. To participate in unified programs and projects relating to  
10 police training and the training of **【correctional police officers,**  
11 **juvenile correctional police officers, and juvenile detention】** law  
12 enforcement officers sponsored by any federal, State, or other  
13 public or private agency;
- 14 m. To perform other acts as may be necessary or appropriate to  
15 carry out its functions and duties as set forth in this act;
- 16 n. To extend the time limit for satisfactory completion of police  
17 training programs or programs for the training of **【correctional**  
18 **police officers, juvenile correctional police officers, and juvenile**  
19 **detention】** law enforcement officers upon a finding that health,  
20 extraordinary workload, or other factors have, singly or in  
21 combination, effected a delay in the satisfactory completion of the  
22 training program;
- 23 o. (1) To furnish approved schools, for inclusion in their  
24 regular police training courses and curriculum, with information  
25 concerning the advisability of high speed chases, the risk caused by  
26 them, and the benefits resulting from them, and to include any other  
27 relevant police training courses that will assist the commission in  
28 providing efficient training;
- 29 (2) To **【review and approve new standards and course curricula**  
30 **for】** consult the New Jersey State Police with respect to its  
31 administration of police training courses or programs **【to be offered**  
32 **by approved schools】** for the training of **【police】** law enforcement  
33 officers to be certified as a Drug Recognition Expert for detecting,  
34 identifying, and apprehending drug-impaired motor vehicle  
35 operators**【. The commission shall】**, and to consult with the  
36 Cannabis Regulatory Commission established by 31 of P.L.2019,  
37 c.153 (C.24:6I-24) with respect to any aspects of the course  
38 curricula that focus on impairment from the use of cannabis items  
39 as defined by section 3 of P.L.2021, c.16 (C.24:6I-33) or marijuana.  
40 **【Any police officer certified and recognized by the commission as a**  
41 **Drug Recognition Expert prior to the effective date of this section,**  
42 **as amended by the "New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory, Enforcement**  
43 **Assistance, and Marketplace Modernization Act," P.L.2021, c.16**  
44 **(C.24:6I-31 et al.), shall continue to be recognized as certified until**  
45 **that certification has expired or is no longer considered valid as**  
46 **determined by the commission, or the certification is replaced by**  
47 **the police officer with a new certification in accordance with the**

1 new standards and course curricula for certification described in  
2 this paragraph.】

3 p. 【To review and approve new standards and course curricula  
4 developed by the Department of Corrections for both basic and in-  
5 service training of State and county correctional police officers and  
6 juvenile detention officers. These courses for the State correctional  
7 police officers and juvenile detention officers shall be centrally  
8 provided at the Corrections Officers' Training Academy of the  
9 Department of Corrections. Courses for the county correctional  
10 police officers and juvenile detention officers shall also be centrally  
11 provided at the Corrections Officers' Training Academy unless an  
12 off-grounds training program is established by the county. A  
13 county may elect to establish and conduct a basic training program  
14 for correctional police officers and juvenile detention officers  
15 seeking permanent appointment in that county. The Corrections  
16 Officers' Training Academy shall develop the curriculum of the  
17 basic training program to be conducted by a county;】 (Deleted by  
18 amendment, P.L. c. ) (pending before the Legislature as this  
19 bill)

20 q. To administer and distribute the monies in the Law  
21 Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Fund established by  
22 section 9 of P.L.1996, c.115 (C.2C:43-3.3) and make rules and  
23 regulations for the administration and distribution of the monies as  
24 may be necessary or appropriate to accomplish the purpose for  
25 which the fund was established.

26 (cf: P.L.2021, c.16, s.85)

27

28 9. (New section) The commission shall establish the process by  
29 which law enforcement officers shall be licensed and  
30 implementation of that process. The commission is vested with the  
31 power, responsibility, and duty:

32 a. to prescribe minimum standards for the licensure for law  
33 enforcement officers for the purpose of promoting and assuring  
34 integrity, competence, professionalism, and fitness for duty. The  
35 minimum standards shall include, but not be limited to:

36 (1) minimum pre-employment qualifications for law  
37 enforcement officer applicants, including but not limited to, age  
38 requirements, residency requirements, background investigations,  
39 psychological examinations, and educational requirements;

40 (2) minimum post-academy training and educational  
41 requirements, including but not limited to required field training  
42 hours for recent academy graduates and required continuing  
43 educational courses for veteran law enforcement officers; and

44 (3) minimum standards of professional conduct;

45 b. to establish a licensure application process for law  
46 enforcement officers and establish and implement procedures and  
47 applicable criteria for license renewal, suspension, revocation or  
48 denial; and

1 c. to perform or cause to be performed through the licensing  
2 committee the following activities related to law enforcement  
3 officer licensing:

4 (1) review applications for and, if warranted, issue law  
5 enforcement officer licenses to qualified applicants;

6 (2) review and act upon matters related to law enforcement  
7 officer license renewal, suspension, revocation, or denial;

8 (3) conduct license renewal, suspension, revocation, or denial  
9 hearings; and

10 (4) suspend, revoke, place conditions upon, or deny a license in  
11 the event an individual does not meet any standard or requirement  
12 prescribed by the commission.

13

14 10. (New section) A person shall not be employed as a law  
15 enforcement officer, as defined in section 2 of P.L.1961, c.56  
16 (C.52:17B-67), in this State unless the person holds a valid, active  
17 license as a law enforcement officer issued in accordance  
18 with P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this  
19 bill). A person shall not act as a law enforcement officer, as  
20 defined in section 2 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-67), in this State  
21 beyond the scope of the authorization provided pursuant to any  
22 endorsements to the license approved by the Police Training  
23 Commission.

24

25 11. Section 4 of P.L.2008, c.80 (C.52:17B-71.9) is amended to  
26 read as follows:

27 4. a. The Police Training Commission in the Department of  
28 Law and Public Safety shall adopt a training course regarding the  
29 risks associated with autism or an intellectual or other  
30 developmental disability and appropriate recognition and response  
31 techniques concerning these disabilities based on the curriculum  
32 developed by the Departments of Health and Senior Services and  
33 Human Services pursuant to subsection a. of section 2 of P.L.2008,  
34 c.80 (C.26:2-190). The training course shall be administered by the  
35 employing agency as part of the in-service training provided to each  
36 local police officer in each law enforcement unit operating in this  
37 State.

38 b. Prior to being appointed to permanent status as a local  
39 **police** law enforcement officer in a law enforcement unit, an  
40 individual shall be required to complete the training course adopted  
41 under subsection a. of this section. Every local **police** law  
42 enforcement officer appointed prior to the effective date of **this**  
43 **act** P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this  
44 bill) shall, within 36 months of the effective date of **this act**  
45 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),  
46 satisfactorily complete a training course in recognition and response  
47 techniques concerning these disabilities.

1 c. The Police Training Commission shall adopt rules and  
2 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"  
3 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of  
4 this act.

5 (cf: P.L.2008, c.80, s.4)

6

7 12. Section 7 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-72) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 a Except as expressly provided in **[this act]** P.L.1961, c.56  
10 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.), nothing herein contained shall be deemed to  
11 limit the powers, rights, duties or responsibilities of municipal or  
12 county governments, nor to affect provisions of Title 11 of the  
13 Revised Statutes, provided that a determination by the Civil  
14 Service Commission that an individual is eligible for appointment  
15 as a law enforcement officer shall not be construed to affect or limit  
16 the commission's ability to take any action authorized under P.L.  
17 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) with  
18 respect to an applicant or licensee.

19 b. Notwithstanding the provisions of any statute, rule,  
20 regulation or collective bargaining agreement to the contrary, the  
21 commission shall have the sole authority to establish training  
22 standards and certification for approved schools, and the licensure  
23 requirements for a law enforcement officer as defined in section 2  
24 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-67).

25 (cf: P.L.1961, c.56, s.7)

26

27 13. Section 10 of P.L.1961. c.56 (C.52:17B-75) is amended to  
28 read as follows:

29 The members of the commission shall receive no salary but all  
30 members except those designated in subsection c. of section 5 of  
31 this act shall be reimbursed for their reasonable expenses lawfully  
32 incurred in the performance of their official functions. The  
33 members of the commission who are employed by the State, a  
34 county, a municipality or any State, county, or local governmental  
35 entity shall not be subject to loss of pay or accrued time due to  
36 attending commission meetings or otherwise performing the official  
37 commission functions.

38 (cf: P.L.1963, c.81, s.13)

39

40 14. (New section) a. The commission is authorized to establish  
41 minimum requirements for an applicant to be appointed as or  
42 maintain the status of a licensed law enforcement officer. The  
43 applicant shall have the burden of demonstrating to the satisfaction  
44 of the commission that the applicant meets all requirements for the  
45 issuance of a law enforcement license. The commission shall have  
46 the authority to issue a license for employment as a law  
47 enforcement officer if an applicant satisfies all licensing  
48 requirements. A license issued pursuant to this section shall expire

- 1 three years after its date of issuance, before which time the law  
2 enforcement officer shall be required to apply for a license renewal.  
3 The requirements for initial licensure shall include, but not be  
4 limited to, that an applicant:
- 5 (1) be at least 18 years of age;
  - 6 (2) be a citizen of the United States, if required for the position  
7 for which licensure is sought;
  - 8 (3) be at least a high school graduate or have earned a General  
9 Educational Development (GED) diploma;
  - 10 (4) be fingerprinted in accordance with the standards established  
11 by the commission;
  - 12 (5) have passed a medical examination by a licensed physician,  
13 physician assistant, or licensed advanced practice registered nurse,  
14 based on specifications established by the commission;
  - 15 (6) have passed a psychological examination by a licensed  
16 psychologist or psychiatrist based on specifications established by  
17 the commission;
  - 18 (7) be of good moral character as determined by a background  
19 investigation conducted under the procedures established by the  
20 commission and successfully pass a criminal background records  
21 check in accordance with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA),  
22 28 C.F.R. 115.317, if applicable;
  - 23 (8) successfully meet and complete all required basic physical  
24 and educational training courses as required by the commission;
  - 25 (9) successfully pass a drug screening test as prescribed by the  
26 commission;
  - 27 (10) possess a valid driver's license;
  - 28 (11) not have received a dishonorable discharge from military  
29 service;
  - 30 (12) successfully complete any probationary period prescribed  
31 by the commission;
  - 32 (13) not have been convicted of any of the following:
    - 33 (a) a crime in this State or any other state, territory, country, or  
34 of the United States. As used in this paragraph, the term shall  
35 include a conviction of an offense which if committed in this State  
36 would be deemed a crime under either State or federal law without  
37 regard to its designation elsewhere;
    - 38 (b) an act of domestic violence pursuant to P.L.1991, c.261  
39 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.);
    - 40 (c) an offense that would preclude an applicant from carrying a  
41 firearm as defined by N.J.S.2C:39-1;
    - 42 (d) a disorderly persons offense or petty disorderly persons  
43 offense involving dishonesty, fraud, or a lack of good moral  
44 character, unless the commission determines the offense to be de  
45 minimis in nature or inconsequential to the applicant's ability to  
46 meet the standards expected of a law enforcement officer;
    - 47 (e) two or more motor vehicle offenses for operating a motor  
48 vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol pursuant to

1 R.S.39:4-50 or two or more motor vehicle offenses for reckless  
2 driving pursuant to R.S.39:4-96; or  
3 (f) any offense listed in (b) through (e) of this paragraph  
4 committed in violation of the laws of another state, territory,  
5 country, or the United States;  
6 (14)not be the subject of a domestic violence restraining order  
7 pursuant to P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.), an extreme risk  
8 protective order, or a temporary extreme risk protective order  
9 pursuant to P.L.2018, c.35 (C.2C:58-20 et seq.) issued against the  
10 applicant;  
11 (15)not be an active member of a group or organization that  
12 advocates for, espouses, or promotes:  
13 (a) the overthrow of a local, state, or federal government; or  
14 (b) discrimination or violence against or hatred or bias toward  
15 individuals or groups based on race, creed, color, national origin,  
16 ancestry, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity  
17 or expression, or any other protected characteristic under the “Law  
18 Against Discrimination,” P.L.1945, c.169 (C.10:5-1 et seq.), or  
19 knowingly engage in any activity, conduct, or behavior relating to  
20 such group or organization with the intent to support, endorse or  
21 advocate for, or which the applicant knows or should know will  
22 have the effect of supporting, furthering, or advocating for, the  
23 goals of such group or organization, where active membership or  
24 knowing engagement would undermine public confidence in the  
25 ability of the individual law enforcement officer or the employing  
26 law enforcement agency to carry out the public safety mission, or  
27 where active membership or knowing engagement would cause  
28 substantial disruption to proper law enforcement functioning;  
29 (16) not have engaged in conduct or behavior in the applicant’s  
30 personal or professional life, including, but not limited to, making  
31 statements, posting, sharing, or commenting in support of any  
32 posting, on social media or otherwise, that demonstrates, espouses,  
33 advocates, or supports discrimination or violence against, or hatred  
34 or bias toward, individuals or groups based on race, creed, color,  
35 national origin, ancestry, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation,  
36 gender identity or expression, or any other protected characteristic  
37 under the “Law Against Discrimination,” P.L.1945, c.169 (C.10:5-1  
38 et seq.), where the conduct or behavior would undermine public  
39 confidence in the ability of the individual law enforcement officer  
40 or the employing law enforcement agency to carry out the public  
41 safety mission, or where the conduct or behavior would cause  
42 substantial disruption to proper law enforcement functioning;  
43 (17) provide to the commission and the applicant’s employing  
44 law enforcement unit a complete list of all social media accounts  
45 maintained by the applicant and grant to the commission and the  
46 applicant’s employing law enforcement unit access to all outwardly  
47 facing activity and publicly accessible components of the accounts;  
48 and

1 (18) pay or cause to be paid any fees, if applicable, established  
2 by the commission.

3 b. An applicant for licensure or license renewal shall provide to  
4 the commission and the applicant's employing law enforcement unit  
5 documented proof, in a form and manner as required by the  
6 commission, that the applicant is in compliance with paragraphs (1)  
7 through (18) of subsection a. of this section. The commission shall  
8 promulgate in its rules and regulations the form, manner and  
9 substance of documents required by the commission to provide  
10 sufficient proof of the qualifications required by this section.

11 c. Law enforcement officers from jurisdictions outside of New  
12 Jersey and federal law enforcement officers applying for licensure  
13 in this State shall be required to meet all of the requirements set  
14 forth in this section and also shall be required to complete a waiver  
15 form that allows the commission and any hiring law enforcement  
16 unit to review the officer's internal affairs records from any and all  
17 prior law enforcement positions.

18 d. At the discretion of the commission, licenses issued pursuant  
19 to this section may serve as authorization for a licensee to serve in  
20 one of the following positions, provided the licensee meets the  
21 requisite qualifications for that status: a full-time permanent law  
22 enforcement officer; a Class One, Class Two, or Class Three special  
23 law enforcement officer; or a probationary law enforcement officer.

24 e. A license issued pursuant to this section may be renewed  
25 administratively, under terms and conditions established by the  
26 commission, without requiring review by the licensing committee  
27 pursuant to subsection b. of section 19 of P.L. , c. (C. )  
28 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) or conducting a hearing  
29 pursuant to section 20 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
30 Legislature as this bill), if the licensee and the licensee's employing  
31 law enforcement unit submit the certifications required pursuant to  
32 subsection a. of section 18 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before  
33 the Legislature as this bill) and if a notice of an employment action  
34 concerning the licensee has not been submitted to or is not required  
35 to be submitted to the commission in accordance with subsection a.  
36 of section 17 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
37 Legislature as this bill).

38  
39 15. (New section) The commission may waive the requirements  
40 of subparagraphs (d) and (e) of paragraph (13) of subsection a. of  
41 section 14 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature  
42 as this bill) if the applicant demonstrates to the licensing  
43 committee's satisfaction that:

44 15. a. the applicant's conviction or convictions occurred  
45 five or more years prior to submission of an application for  
46 licensure as a law enforcement officer;

47 b. the applicant has taken rehabilitative steps since the  
48 applicant's conviction or convictions to become a law-abiding

1 citizen through actions, including but not limited to continuing  
2 education, maintaining gainful employment, and having no further  
3 convictions; and

4 c. the applicant is currently of good moral character and  
5 submits at least three letters of recommendation from members of  
6 the applicant's community detailing the applicant's good moral  
7 character.

8

9 16. (New section) a. An employing law enforcement unit  
10 shall be responsible for the collection, verification, and maintenance  
11 of documentation establishing that an applicant meets the minimum  
12 qualifications for employment as a law enforcement officer.

13 b. When all of the documentation concerning an applicant is  
14 obtained, the employing law enforcement unit shall submit the  
15 documentation to the commission for verification and review in a  
16 manner prescribed by the commission.

17 c. The commission shall adopt rules and regulations  
18 establishing the procedure to submit licensing application  
19 documents.

20 d. The commission shall review an applicant's documentation  
21 submitted for licensure to determine eligibility for the issuance of a  
22 law enforcement license.

23

24 17. (New section) a. The chief of an employing law  
25 enforcement unit shall notify the commission in writing, on a form  
26 prescribed by the commission, of the following employment actions  
27 concerning a law enforcement officer:

28 (1) the date of appointment or employment with the law  
29 enforcement unit;

30 (2) the date of separation from appointment or employment with  
31 the law enforcement unit, which includes any firing, termination,  
32 resignation, retirement, or voluntary or involuntary extended leave  
33 of absence;

34 (3) the imposition of any discipline subject to appeal;

35 (4) any suspension of more than five days or 40 hours duration,  
36 imposed pending investigation or disciplinary action;

37 (5) any sustained finding that a law enforcement officer used  
38 excessive force;

39 (6) any pending criminal charge or conviction of any crime,  
40 disorderly persons, petty disorderly persons, or driving while  
41 intoxicated offense;

42 (7) any sustained finding that a law enforcement officer is unfit  
43 for duty;

44 (8) any sustained finding that the law enforcement officer filed a  
45 false report or submitted a false certification in any criminal,  
46 administrative, employment, financial, or insurance matter in the  
47 officer's professional or personal life;



1 (9) any sustained finding that the law enforcement officer  
2 mishandled or destroyed evidence;

3 (10) any sustained finding that the law enforcement officer was  
4 untruthful or demonstrated a lack of candor; and

5 (11) any sustained finding that the law enforcement officer is  
6 biased against a particular class of people based on race, creed,  
7 color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, sexual  
8 orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other protected  
9 characteristic under the “Law Against Discrimination,” P.L.1945,  
10 c.169 (C.10:5-1 et seq.).

11 In addition to the completed form, the employing law  
12 enforcement unit shall provide additional supporting information  
13 and documentation as may be required by the commission. The  
14 employing law enforcement unit shall maintain the original form  
15 and submit, or electronically transmit, the information required  
16 under this subsection to the commission within two business days  
17 of the employment action. Notwithstanding any other provision of  
18 law, the completed forms and information submitted to the  
19 commission pursuant to this section shall not constitute a public  
20 record under P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.) or any court  
21 decision, or a government record subject to access pursuant to  
22 P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-5 et seq.).

23 b. In a case of separation from employment, the employing law  
24 enforcement unit shall execute and maintain a form adopted by the  
25 commission, setting forth in detail the facts and reasons for the  
26 separation. The information contained in the form shall be  
27 submitted, or electronically transmitted, to the commission within  
28 two business days. If the officer is separated for the officer’s  
29 failure to comply with the provisions of P.L. , c. (C. )  
30 (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the notice shall specify  
31 this. Any law enforcement officer who has separated from  
32 employment for cause shall be permitted to respond to the  
33 separation, in writing, to the commission, setting forth the facts and  
34 reasons for the separation as the officer understands them. The  
35 response shall be submitted to the commission within two business  
36 days of the separation.

37 c. Before employing a licensed law enforcement officer, a  
38 subsequent employing law enforcement unit shall contact the  
39 commission to inquire as to the facts and reasons an officer was  
40 separated from any previous employing unit. The commission shall,  
41 upon request and without prejudice, provide to the subsequent  
42 employing law enforcement unit all information that is required  
43 under sections a. and b. of this section that is in its possession.  
44 Notwithstanding this provision, a law enforcement unit seeking to  
45 hire a law enforcement officer shall comply with the provisions of  
46 section 1 of P.L.2020, c.52 (C.52:17B-247) and request that  
47 officer’s internal affairs and personnel files from the officer’s  
48 previous employing law enforcement units.

1 d. Whenever a law enforcement officer voluntarily separates  
2 from employment with a law enforcement unit to commence  
3 employment at another unit, the chief of the former law  
4 enforcement unit shall notify the commission in writing in advance,  
5 if possible, but no later than two business days after the officer's  
6 departure. Upon separation from employment, the law enforcement  
7 officer's license shall be placed on inactive status, unless the  
8 commission has previously acted to approve the officer's active  
9 status at the new employing law enforcement unit. The chief of that  
10 unit shall make application to the commission, in a manner  
11 proscribed by the commission, through its regulations, prior to or  
12 within two business days of the officer's appointment date to  
13 restore the officer's license to active status. The commission shall  
14 consider the application and render a decision concerning the  
15 reactivation of the officer's license.

16 e. It shall be unlawful for any State, county, or municipal  
17 agency, law enforcement unit, or licensed law enforcement officer  
18 to enter into any non-disclosure agreement which seeks to conceal  
19 or prevent public review of the circumstances under which the  
20 officer separated from or was terminated or fired from employment  
21 by the law enforcement unit or State, county, or municipal agency.  
22

23 18. (New section) a. A law enforcement officer required to  
24 renew the officer's license shall submit an application for law  
25 enforcement license renewal through the officer's employing law  
26 enforcement unit to the commission. The application for law  
27 enforcement license renewal shall be on a form adopted by the  
28 commission and shall require the law enforcement officer and the  
29 chief of the officer's employing law enforcement unit to certify that  
30 the officer:

31 (1) is of good moral character as determined by a background  
32 investigation conducted under the procedures established by the  
33 commission;

34 (2) successfully meets and has completed all commission  
35 required physical and educational training courses;

36 (3) has not been convicted of:

37 (a) a crime in this State or any other state, territory, country, or  
38 of the United States. As used in this paragraph, the term "convicted  
39 of a crime" shall include a conviction of an offense which if  
40 committed in this State would be deemed a crime under either state  
41 or federal law without regard to its designation elsewhere;

42 (b) an act of domestic violence pursuant to P.L.1991, c.261  
43 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.);

44 (c) an offense that would preclude an applicant from carrying a  
45 firearm as defined by N.J.S.2C:39-1;

46 (d) a disorderly persons offense or petty disorderly persons  
47 offense involving dishonesty, fraud, or a lack of good moral  
48 character, unless the commission determines the offense to be de

- 1 minimis in nature or inconsequential to the applicant's ability to  
2 meet the standards expected of a law enforcement officer;
- 3 (e) two or more motor vehicle offenses for operating a motor  
4 vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol pursuant to  
5 R.S.39:4-50 or two or more motor vehicle offenses for reckless  
6 driving pursuant to R.S.39:4-96; or
- 7 (f) any offense listed in subparagraph (b) through (e) of this  
8 paragraph committed in violation of the laws of another state,  
9 territory, country, or the United States.
- 10 (4) is not an active member of a group or organization that  
11 advocates for, espouses or promotes:
- 12 (a) the overthrow of a local, state or federal government; or
- 13 (b) discrimination or violence against or hatred or bias toward  
14 individuals or groups based on race, creed, color, national origin,  
15 ancestry, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or  
16 expression, or any other protected characteristic under the "Law  
17 Against Discrimination," P.L.1945, c.169 (C.10:5-1 et seq.), and  
18 has not knowingly engaged in any activity, conduct, or behavior  
19 relating to the group or organization with the intent to support,  
20 endorse or advocate for, or which the officer knows or should know  
21 will have the effect of supporting, furthering, or advocating for, the  
22 goals of the group or organization, where active membership or  
23 knowing engagement undermines or tends to undermine public  
24 confidence in the ability of the individual law enforcement officer  
25 or the employing law enforcement agency to carry out the public  
26 safety mission, or where active membership or knowing  
27 engagement causes or threatens to cause substantial disruption to  
28 proper law enforcement functioning; and
- 29 (5) has not engaged in conduct or behavior in the officer's  
30 personal or professional life, including but not limited to, making  
31 statements, posting, sharing, or commenting in support of any  
32 posting on social media or otherwise that demonstrates, espouses,  
33 advocates or supports discrimination or violence against, or hatred  
34 or bias toward individuals or groups based on race, creed, color,  
35 national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, sexual orientation,  
36 gender identity or expression, or any other protected characteristic  
37 under the "Law Against Discrimination," P.L.1945, c.169 (C.10:5-1  
38 et seq.), where the conduct or behavior would undermine public  
39 confidence in the ability of the individual law enforcement officer  
40 or the employing law enforcement agency to carry out the public  
41 safety mission, or where the conduct or behavior would cause  
42 substantial disruption to proper law enforcement functioning.
- 43 b. A law enforcement officer who is unable to certify to any  
44 item enumerated in subsection a. of this section shall disclose to the  
45 commission the reason the officer cannot make the certification.  
46 The commission shall consider this information in determining  
47 whether the officer's license shall be renewed.

1 c. In addition to the information contained in the law  
2 enforcement license renewal application form, the commission may  
3 request any additional information it deems relevant to determine  
4 whether a law enforcement officer's license should be renewed.  
5 The information may include a summary of a law enforcement  
6 officer's internal affairs file, or the entire file as the commission  
7 deems necessary. An employing law enforcement unit or the law  
8 enforcement officer shall provide all additional information  
9 requested by the commission.

10 d. The license of a law enforcement officer who is active and in  
11 good standing and who has timely submitted a completed renewal  
12 application which the commission fails to act upon prior to the  
13 license expiration date shall be deemed in force and effect until the  
14 time as the commission acts upon the renewal application, provided  
15 that nothing in this subsection shall be construed to preclude the  
16 commission from exercising the authority provided under section 19  
17 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)  
18 during that interval or thereafter.

19 e. A person appointed as a permanent law enforcement officer  
20 prior to the effective date of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before  
21 the Legislature as this bill) shall apply for a law enforcement  
22 license in accordance with subsections a. through c. of this section.  
23 The commission shall devise a process and schedule for submission  
24 of a law enforcement license application for the officers.  
25

26 19. (New section) a. The commission shall have authority to  
27 suspend, revoke, place conditions upon, or deny a law enforcement  
28 license or otherwise place conditions on the renewal of a law  
29 enforcement license to an applicant or law enforcement officer if  
30 the applicant or officer has:

31 (1) failed to demonstrate or adhere to the minimum  
32 qualifications under section 14 of P.L. , c. (C. )(pending  
33 before the Legislature as this bill), or in the rules and regulations of  
34 the commission when applying for a license or license renewal. The  
35 burden shall be on the applicant or the law enforcement officer to  
36 establish that the minimum qualifications are met;

37 (2) knowingly made misleading, deceptive, untrue, or fraudulent  
38 representations in the practice of being a law enforcement officer or  
39 in any document connected therewith or practiced fraud or deceit or  
40 intentionally made any false statement in obtaining a license to be  
41 an officer;

42 (3) been convicted of a crime in this State or any other state,  
43 territory, country, or of the United States. As used in this  
44 paragraph, the term "convicted of a crime" shall include a  
45 conviction of an offense which if committed in this State would be  
46 deemed a crime under either state or federal law without regard to  
47 its designation elsewhere;

- 1 (4) committed a crime involving moral turpitude, without regard  
2 to conviction. The conviction of a crime involving moral turpitude  
3 shall be conclusive of the commission of the crime;
- 4 (5) been convicted of an act of domestic violence as defined by  
5 section 1 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.);
- 6 (6) had the officer's law enforcement license revoked,  
7 suspended, or annulled by any lawful certifying or licensing  
8 authority, had other disciplinary action taken against the officer by  
9 any lawful certifying or licensing authority, or was denied a license  
10 by any lawful certifying or licensing authority;
- 11 (7) engaged in any unprofessional, unethical, deceptive, or  
12 deleterious conduct or practice harmful to the public; the conduct or  
13 practice need not have resulted in actual injury to any person. As  
14 used in this paragraph, the term "unprofessional conduct" shall  
15 include any departure from, or failure to conform to, the minimal  
16 standards of acceptable and prevailing practice of an officer as  
17 prescribed by the commission. As used in this paragraph the term  
18 "deceptive conduct" shall include but not be limited to:
- 19 (a) a sustained finding that a law enforcement officer filed a  
20 false report or submitted a false certification in any criminal,  
21 administrative, employment, financial, or insurance matter in the  
22 professional or personal life of the officer;
- 23 (b) a sustained finding that the law enforcement officer was  
24 untruthful or demonstrated a lack of candor;
- 25 (c) a sustained finding that the law enforcement officer  
26 mishandled or destroyed evidence; or
- 27 (d) a sustained finding that a law enforcement officer has  
28 engaged in conduct demonstrating discrimination, hatred or bias  
29 against individuals or groups based on race, creed, color, national  
30 origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender  
31 identity or expression, or any other protected characteristic under  
32 the "Law Against Discrimination," P.L.1945, c.169 (C.10:5-1 et  
33 seq.);
- 34 (8) been adjudged mentally incompetent by a court of competent  
35 jurisdiction, within or outside this State;
- 36 (9) become unable to perform as an officer with reasonable skill  
37 and safety to citizens by reason of illness or use of alcohol, drugs,  
38 narcotics, chemicals, or any other type of material or as a result of  
39 any mental or physical condition;
- 40 (10) been the subject of a domestic violence restraining order  
41 pursuant to P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-17 et seq.), an extreme risk  
42 protective order or a temporary extreme risk protective order  
43 pursuant to P.L.2018, c.35 (C.2C:58-20 et seq.) issued against the  
44 applicant or officer; or
- 45 (11) been suspended or discharged by the officer's employing  
46 law enforcement unit for disciplinary reasons.
- 47 b. The commission shall establish a licensing committee to  
48 assist it in exercising the authority provided under this act,

1 including duties with respect to law enforcement officer licensing  
2 as set forth in subsection c. of section 9 of P.L. , c. (C. )  
3 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) and this section,  
4 including but not limited to, making recommendations for licensure  
5 to be considered by the full commission. The composition,  
6 membership, terms of membership, and procedures applicable to the  
7 function and operations of the licensing committee shall be  
8 determined by the commission, provided that the membership of the  
9 licensing committee shall include the Attorney General's designee  
10 and no less than one public member.

11 c. If the commission finds, based on its own review or a  
12 recommendation of the licensing committee, that any person has  
13 engaged in the conduct described in subsection a. of this section,  
14 the commission may take any of the following actions:

- 15 (1) deny a license to an applicant;
- 16 (2) suspend any license for a definite period;
- 17 (3) place limitations or restrictions on a license;
- 18 (4) revoke a license;
- 19 (5) condition a penalty, or withhold formal disposition, upon the  
20 officer's completing care, counseling, or treatment, as directed by  
21 the commission; or
- 22 (6) place the officer's license on inactive status.

23 d. In addition to and in conjunction with the foregoing actions,  
24 the commission may make a finding adverse to the applicant or law  
25 enforcement officer, but withhold imposition of judgment or it may  
26 impose the judgment but suspend enforcement thereof and place the  
27 officer on probation, which may be vacated upon noncompliance  
28 with reasonable terms as the commission may impose.

29 e. In its discretion, the commission may restore and reissue a  
30 license issued under this act and, as a condition thereof, may  
31 impose any corrective measure prescribed by the commission.

32 f. Any decision to revoke, suspend, or deny licensure or  
33 license renewal shall be accompanied by a written statement in a  
34 form to be prescribed by the commission.

35 g. Decisions of the commission authorized under this section  
36 shall be final agency decisions subject to appeal to the Superior  
37 Court.

38

39 20. (New section) a. In all situations where a law enforcement  
40 officer has been convicted of an offense set forth in subparagraph  
41 (a), (b), or (c) of paragraph (13) of subsection a. of section 14 of  
42 P.L. . , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),  
43 the commission shall revoke a law enforcement officer's license or  
44 deny the issuance of a license to an applicant.

45 b. Except as provided in section a. of this section, in all  
46 situations involving application of the authority of the commission  
47 set forth in section 19 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
48 Legislature as this bill), the law enforcement officer shall, if

1 requested by the officer, be entitled to a hearing in a manner  
2 prescribed in this subsection and in regulations as may be  
3 promulgated by the commission:

4 (1) The licensing committee may hear the matter or refer the  
5 matter to a hearing officer for fact finding and a recommended  
6 disposition;

7 (2) If the matter is referred to a hearing officer, the officer shall  
8 conduct a hearing and provide a written report to the licensing  
9 committee detailing the facts revealed and providing a  
10 recommended disposition; and

11 (3) The licensing committee shall review the hearing officer's  
12 report, vote on the proposed disposition, and make a  
13 recommendation to the full commission, which shall render a  
14 decision in writing to the law enforcement officer, or any other  
15 party participating in the hearing.

16 c. Any ruling adverse to the law enforcement officer or any  
17 party participating in the hearing may be appealed to the Superior  
18 Court within 45 days of receipt of the commission's decision on  
19 appeal. Absent an appeal to the Superior Court, all findings of the  
20 commission shall become final upon the expiration of the appeal  
21 deadline. Upon review on appeal to the Superior Court, the  
22 commission's decisions shall be upheld unless the court finds the  
23 commission's decision was arbitrary, capricious, or unreasonable,  
24 or the record was unsupported by substantial credible evidence.

25 d. The commission shall promulgate rules and regulations  
26 detailing the manner of the hearing and appeal process. The  
27 processes shall include, but not be limited to, the manner in which a  
28 hearing and appeal are initiated and the manner in which the  
29 hearing shall be conducted.

30

31 21. (New section) a. The commission shall, by regulation,  
32 require all law enforcement officers, as a condition of continued  
33 employment or appointment as an officer, to receive periodic  
34 commission-approved continuing officer education training. The  
35 training or education shall be mandated and prescribed by the  
36 commission. Every law enforcement unit shall provide a reasonable  
37 opportunity for its officers to complete training.

38 b. The law enforcement officer shall submit proof of all  
39 required training to the chief of the officer's employing law  
40 enforcement unit, who shall in turn, submit the documentation to  
41 the commission in a manner to be proscribed by the commission's  
42 regulations.

43

44 22. (New section) a. The commission shall, by rule or  
45 regulation, establish, prescribe, or modify fees for training or other  
46 services provided by the commission pursuant to the provisions of  
47 this act. The fees may include, but are not limited to, fees for  
48 academy recruits and fees for each academy. Any fees established

1 pursuant to this subsection shall be dedicated to the costs of  
2 providing the training or other services provided by the  
3 commission, as the case may be.

4 b. The commission may, by rule or regulation, establish,  
5 prescribe, or modify fees for application for and issuance of an  
6 initial license pursuant to the provisions of this act for applicants or  
7 law enforcement officers not employed as full-time sworn members  
8 of any State, county, or municipal law enforcement agency or  
9 department or division of those governments on the effective date  
10 of this act, provided that a fee may not be charged for application  
11 for and issuance of initial licenses for law enforcement officers  
12 employed as full-time sworn members of any State, county, or  
13 municipal law enforcement agency, department, or division of those  
14 governments on the effective date of this act, or for application for  
15 and issuance of law enforcement license renewals for law  
16 enforcement officers employed as full-time sworn members of any  
17 State, county, or municipal law enforcement agency, department, or  
18 division of those governments on or after the effective date of this  
19 act.

20 c. The commission shall be authorized to accept payment of  
21 fees established pursuant to this section from an applicant or  
22 licensee or on behalf of an applicant or licensee from a law  
23 enforcement unit employing or proposing to employ the applicant  
24 or officer, from any other governmental entity, or from funds made  
25 available by the State for this purpose.

26  
27 23. (New section) There is hereby appropriated from the General  
28 Fund to the Department of Law and Public Safety the sum of  
29 \$6,000,000 to carry out the purposes of this act for the fiscal period  
30 ending June 30, 2023.

31  
32 24. The following sections are repealed:  
33 Section 5 of P.L.1988, c.176 (C.52:17B-68.1);  
34 Section 3 of P.L.1967, c.252 (C.52:17B-71.1); and  
35 5-71.7).

36  
37 25. This act shall take effect on the first day of the eighteenth  
38 month after enactment, however the provisions of paragraph (2) of  
39 subsection o. of section 8 shall take effect immediately. The Police  
40 Training Commission may take such anticipatory actions in advance  
41 of that date as may be necessary to effectuate the provisions of this  
42 act.

43  
44

45 STATEMENT

46  
47 This bill concerns the licensing of law enforcement officers and  
48 appropriates \$6 million.



1 Under the provisions of this bill, a person is not to be employed  
2 as a law enforcement officer in this State unless the person holds a  
3 valid, active license issued in accordance with the bill's provisions.

4 The Police Training Commission (PTC) is required to establish  
5 the process by which law enforcement officers are to be licensed  
6 and implement that process. Under the bill, the membership of the  
7 PTC is expanded to include two additional public members and a  
8 member of the State Troopers Fraternal Association of New Jersey.

9 The bill provides that the PTC is vested with the power,  
10 responsibility, and duty to prescribe minimum standards for the  
11 licensure for law enforcement officers; establish a licensure  
12 application process for law enforcement officers and establish and  
13 implement procedures and criteria for license renewal, suspension,  
14 revocation, or denial; and to perform, through the licensing  
15 committee, certain activities related to law enforcement officer  
16 licensing.

17 Under the bill, the PTC is to establish a licensing committee to  
18 assist it in exercising the authority provided under the bill,  
19 including but not limited to, making recommendations for licensure  
20 to be considered by the full commission. The membership of the  
21 licensing committee is to include the Attorney General's designee  
22 and at least one public member.

23 The bill sets forth specific requirements for initial licensure. A  
24 license issued under the bill expires three years after its date of  
25 issuance, before which time the law enforcement officer is required  
26 to apply for a license renewal.

27 A law enforcement officer that is required to renew the officer's  
28 license is to submit an application through the officer's employing  
29 law enforcement unit to the PTC. The law enforcement officer and  
30 the chief of the employing law enforcement unit are required to  
31 certify that the officer meets certain requirements.

32 The employing law enforcement unit is required to notify the  
33 PTC of certain employment actions regarding a law enforcement  
34 officer. Under the bill, the PTC has the authority to suspend,  
35 revoke, place conditions upon, or deny a law enforcement officer  
36 license or place conditions on the renewal of a license under certain  
37 circumstances.

38 The bill provides that the PTC is required to revoke or deny a  
39 license whenever a law enforcement officer or applicant is  
40 convicted of a crime, an act of domestic violence, or an offense that  
41 would preclude the officer or applicant from carrying a firearm. In  
42 all other instances the law enforcement officer is entitled to a  
43 hearing. Under the bill, decisions of the PTC are final agency  
44 decisions subject to appeal to the Superior Court.

45 In addition, the bill provides that the commission may establish  
46 or prescribe fees for training or other services provided by the PTC.  
47 However, current law enforcement officers are not to be charged  
48 application or licensing fees when applying for a license.

**S2742 GREENSTEIN, SINGLETON**

26

1       Finally, the bill appropriates \$6 million from the General Fund to  
2 the Department of Law and Public Safety to carry out the bill's  
3 purposes.