

§§1-3
C.52:17B-4.14
to 52:17B-4.16
§3
Note to s.4
§4
C.52:17B-77.20

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 243, *approved January 12, 2026*
Assembly, No. 4175 (*Third Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning law enforcement ³**[and]** officers, amending
2 P.L.1968, c.427, and³ supplementing Title 2C of the New Jersey
3 Statutes ³and Title 52 of the Revised Statutes³.
4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
7
8 1. ³(New section)³ a. The Attorney General shall review the
9 Statewide use of force policy applicable to law enforcement officers
10 every ¹**[two years]** even numbered year¹, or in such shorter time
11 frame as the Attorney General may deem appropriate, and revise it
12 as need may require.
13 ¹**[In reviewing and revising the Statewide use of force policy,**
14 **the Attorney General shall give due consideration to, at a**
15 **minimum,]** Any revision of the Statewide use of force policy shall
16 be in furtherance of at least¹ the following core principles:
17 (1) respecting the sanctity of human life and serving the
18 community;
19 (2) prioritizing other reasonable measures, including de-
20 escalation, that must be attempted before resorting to the use of
21 force;
22 (3) promoting the use of only objectively reasonable, necessary
23 and proportional force, including the use of deadly force only as a
24 last resort; and
25 (4) articulating other duties attendant to the use of force, such as
26 a law enforcement officer’s duty to intervene, to render medical
27 assistance, and to report and review uses of force.
28 b. The Attorney General shall transmit any revisions of the
29 Statewide use of force policy to the chief or director of every
30 county and municipal law enforcement department, every municipal
31 and county prosecutor, and the Superintendent of State Police.
32 ¹c. The Attorney General, in reviewing the Statewide use of
33 force policy pursuant to subsection a. of this section, shall hold

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
¹Assembly AJU committee amendments adopted October 21, 2024.
²Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted February 20, 2025.
³Senate SBA committee amendments adopted December 15, 2025.

1 three public hearings, one hearing in each of the northern, central,
2 and southern regions of the State, at such times as the Attorney
3 General shall determine, in order to receive feedback from the
4 community related to such policy. Such public hearings shall
5 include local law enforcement and community members and
6 organizations.¹

7
8 ^{12.} ³(New section)³ a. The Attorney General shall establish and
9 maintain a procedure by which all incidents involving the use of
10 force by a law enforcement officer are reported to the Department
11 of Law and Public Safety, and shall compile such information for
12 presentation on the Department's internet website, which shall be
13 accessible to the public and shall be regularly updated in
14 accordance with procedures established by the Attorney General.

15 b. The information compiled pursuant to subsection a. of this
16 section shall made available for public inspection pursuant to
17 P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.), commonly known as the Open
18 Public Records Act.¹

19
20 ^{13.} ³(New section)³ a. The Attorney General shall issue and
21 revise as needed guidelines and procedures applicable to law
22 enforcement encounters involving a barricaded individual. Any
23 revision to such guidelines and procedures shall be in furtherance of
24 the components and principles enumerated in subsection b. of this
25 section.

26 b. These guidelines and procedures shall address, at a minimum,
27 the following components and principles:

28 (1) Proper identification of situations involving a barricaded
29 individual, including differentiating between situations involving a
30 barricaded individual experiencing a mental health crisis that poses
31 a health, safety^{2, 2} or welfare risk to the individual or others, and
32 those situations involving a barricaded individual or hostage
33 situation under circumstances that do not involve a mental health
34 crisis. Appropriate protocols shall be established for dealing with
35 those situations based on their differing nature² [, including
36 whether the use of stun guns, as that term is defined in N.J.S.2C:39-
37 1, may be considered as a non-lethal option and whether officers
38 should prioritize waiting for conflict resolution through negotiating
39 and communication by a mental health professional rather than
40 engaging the barricaded individual]. Protocols shall include proper
41 circumstances for the use of conflict resolution through negotiating,
42 communication through a mental health professional, or the
43 engagement with a barricaded individual pursuant to the Attorney
44 General Use of Force Policy² ;

45 (2) Initial responding law enforcement officers' roles and
46 responsibilities ²[, including] shall include² ensuring that
47 responding officers consider the barricaded individual's primary

1 language and, if communication is difficult, take reasonable steps to
2 establish communication via the person's primary language ²].
3 including but not limited to, utilizing bilingual officers, interpreters,
4 telephonic interpretation or translation services, or community crisis
5 response teams, if feasible and appropriate ²;

6 (3) Law enforcement de-escalation responses to barricaded
7 individual and hostage situations, and interaction with individuals
8 in behavioral and mental health crises, including crisis intervention,
9 crisis negotiation, resolution techniques, and resolution tactics;

10 (4) Roles and responsibilities of supervisors, including
11 establishing that it is the responsibility of the incident commander,
12 absent exigent circumstances, to make the decision to employ
13 resolution tactics or to enter a structure or area occupied by a
14 barricaded individual, which decision shall be made after giving
15 due consideration to all available alternative strategies and
16 information, including that provided by the tactical commander,
17 crisis negotiation team leader, and available mental health
18 professionals;

19 (5) Proper coordination of activities between incident command
20 systems and tactical teams, and providing that, when feasible, a law
21 enforcement officer trained in crisis intervention shall respond to
22 incidents involving barricaded individuals and assist in de-
23 escalating the situation and recommending appropriate resources;
24 ²and²

25 (6) Appropriate role and use of mental health professionals,
26 ²including providing that tactical teams or crisis negotiation teams
27 shall identify qualified and experienced mental health professionals
28 who shall respond to any incidents involving a barricaded
29 individual or hostage situation. These mental health professionals
30 may be individual providers or organizations and, where feasible,
31 shall be present for law enforcement encounters with barricaded
32 individuals. ¹ when available. ²

33
34 ¹4. ³(New section) ³ The Police Training Commission shall
35 develop and include barricaded individual training for law
36 enforcement officers in all of its basic training courses. This
37 mandatory training shall include proper identification of barricaded
38 individuals, responses to barricaded individual and hostage
39 situations, and interacting with individuals in behavioral and mental
40 health crises. ¹

41
42 ³5. Section 1 of P.L.1968, c.427 (C.2A:154-4) is amended to
43 read as follows:

44 1. All correctional police officers of the State of New Jersey],
45 parole officers employed by the State Parole Board] and
46 investigators in the Department of Corrections, including all
47 promotional ranks and positions responsible for overseeing

1 correctional police officers and investigators so long as they have
2 an underlying correctional police officer or investigator title, and
3 parole officers employed by the State Parole Board, who have been
4 or who may hereafter be appointed or employed, shall, by virtue of
5 such appointment or employment and in addition to any other
6 power or authority, be empowered to exercise full police powers
7 and to act as peace officers, at all times, for the detection,
8 apprehension, arrest and conviction of offenders against the law.

9 Correctional police officers empowered with full police powers
10 under this section shall, while performing their duties in a lawful
11 manner, be deemed to be acting under lawful authority and shall
12 enjoy all the immunities from tort liability and shall have all the
13 pension, relief, disability, workmen's compensation, insurance and
14 other benefits they otherwise enjoy when performing their regular
15 duties.

16 (cf: P.L.2017, c.293, s.2) ³

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18 ¹[2.] ³[5.¹] 6.³ This act shall take effect immediately.
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23 Concerns use of force by law enforcement officers under certain
24 circumstances and requires certain reporting of use of force
25 incidents.