

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 332, *approved January 20, 2026*
Senate, No. 4904

1 AN ACT concerning law enforcement investigators and amending
2 P.L.1961, c.56 and P.L.2022, c.65.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. Section 4 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-69) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 4. a. A probationary or temporary appointment as a law
10 enforcement officer may be made for a total period not exceeding
11 one year for the purpose of enabling a person seeking permanent
12 appointment to take a police training course as prescribed in this
13 act, provided, however, that the time period may exceed one year
14 for those persons enrolled prior to the one-year limit in a police
15 training course scheduled to end subsequent to the one-year limit,
16 and for those persons who, prior to the one-year limit, have been
17 scheduled to attend a police training course which commences
18 subsequent to the one-year limit. In no case shall any extension
19 granted for the reasons herein listed exceed six months. Every
20 person holding such a probationary or temporary appointment shall
21 enroll in a police training course, and such appointee shall be
22 entitled to a leave of absence with pay during the period of the
23 police training course.

24 b. A person holding a probationary or temporary appointment
25 on the effective date of P.L.2022, c.65 (C.52:17B-71a et al.) shall
26 not be permitted to continue in the probationary or temporary
27 appointment beyond one year after the effective date of P.L.2022,
28 c.65 (C.52:17B-71a et al.) unless the person enrolls in or completes
29 a basic training course approved by the commission.

30 c. A person appointed on a probationary or temporary basis on
31 or after the effective date of P.L.2022, c.65 (C.52:17B-71a et al.)
32 shall not perform the functions or duties of a permanently appointed
33 law enforcement officer unless the person completes a basic
34 training course approved by the commission. Upon successful
35 completion of the basic training course, a person appointed on a
36 probationary or temporary basis on or after the effective date of
37 P.L.2022, c.65 (C.52:17B-71a et al.) shall receive from the
38 commission a one-year probationary law enforcement license, as
39 defined in section 2 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-67), and the
40 person shall be permitted to perform full police functions or duties
41 during the person's probationary or temporary appointment.

42 d. Upon successful completion of a probationary or temporary
43 appointment, a person may apply for licensure as a permanent law

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 enforcement officer in a manner prescribed by the commission
2 pursuant to P.L.2022, c.65 (C.52:17B-71a et al.). The probationary
3 license shall remain in force and effect until the commission acts
4 upon the application for licensure as a permanent law enforcement
5 officer.

6 e. A permanent law enforcement officer licensed in a manner
7 prescribed by the commission pursuant to P.L.2022, c.65
8 (C.52:17B-71a et al.) who holds an active certification in the basic
9 training course for police officers or State Police may receive a
10 probationary or temporary appointment as a State or county
11 investigator for a total period not exceeding 120 days from the date
12 of appointment for the purpose of enabling the officer to be trained
13 and certified as a basic investigator. A law enforcement officer
14 holding a probationary or temporary appointment shall be permitted
15 to perform the functions or duties of a permanently appointed
16 investigator during the officer's probationary or temporary
17 appointment. Upon successful completion of a probationary or
18 temporary appointment, the law enforcement officer may apply for
19 licensure as a permanent investigator in a manner prescribed by the
20 commission pursuant to P.L.2022, c.65 (C.52:17B-71a et al.). The
21 probationary or temporary appointment shall remain in force and
22 effect until the commission acts upon the application for licensure
23 as a permanent investigator.

24 (cf: P.L.2022, c.65, s.4)

25
26 2. Section 10 of P.L.2022, c.65 (C.52:17B-67.1) is amended to
27 read as follows:

28 10. A person shall not be employed as a law enforcement
29 officer, as defined in section 2 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-67), in
30 this State unless the person holds a valid, active license as a law
31 enforcement officer issued in accordance with P.L.2022, c.65
32 (C.52:17B-71a et al.). A person shall not act as a law enforcement
33 officer, as defined in section 2 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-67), in
34 this State beyond the scope of the authorization provided pursuant
35 to any designations to the license approved by the Police Training
36 Commission , except that a permanent law enforcement officer
37 licensed in a manner prescribed by the commission pursuant to
38 P.L.2022, c.65 (C.52:17B-71a et al.) who holds an active
39 certification in the basic training course for police officers or State
40 Police shall be permitted to perform the functions or duties of a
41 permanently appointed State or county investigator for a period not
42 to exceed 120 days from the date of appointment while being
43 trained and certified as a basic investigator.

44 (cf: P.L.2022, c.65, s.10)

45
46 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill permits the probationary or temporary appointment of a law enforcement officer as a State or county investigator under certain circumstances.

Under the bill, a permanent law enforcement officer who holds an active certification in the basic training course for police officers or State police may receive a probationary or temporary appointment as a State or county investigator for a total period not exceeding 120 days from the date of appointment for the purpose of enabling the officer to be trained and certified as a basic investigator. The bill authorizes the law enforcement officer to perform the functions or duties of a permanently appointed investigator during the officer's probationary or temporary appointment.

Upon successful completion of a probationary or temporary appointment, the bill provides that the law enforcement officer may apply to the Police Training Commission for licensure as a permanent investigator. Under the bill, the probationary or temporary appointment remains in force and effect until the commission acts upon the application for licensure.

Permits probationary or temporary appointment of law enforcement officer as State or county investigator under certain circumstances.