

§§1-5
C.52:17B-4.20
to 52:17B-4.24
§4
Note to
N.J.S.2A:12-3,
C.9:3A-7,
N.J.S.18A:4-22,
R.S.30:1-12,
C.30:1B-6,
C.26:1A-15,
and C.52:27D-3

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 401, *approved January 20, 2026*
Assembly, No. 6308 (*First Reprint*)

- 1 **AN ACT** requiring the Attorney General to create certain model
2 policies protecting personal freedoms and supplementing Title
3 52 of the Revised Statutes.
4
- 5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
7
- 8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Safe
9 Communities Act.”
10
- 11 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:
12 a. One of the founding principles of this nation is the freedom
13 to worship in peace. Our religious institutions should be places
14 where community members feel safe to convene. Individuals
15 should not be deterred from attending their places of worship out of
16 a general fear that their personal freedom to assemble for worship
17 may be encumbered.
18 b. Schools, hospitals, shelters, courthouses, and other essential
19 government services should be safe and accessible to all eligible
20 community members who are seeking services. Individuals should
21 not be deterred from seeking services for which they are eligible
22 because of a generalized fear of engaging with institutions.
23 c. New Jersey is a healthier, safer, and more prosperous State
24 when all residents access the services for which they are eligible. A
25 coordinated effort by all relevant municipal, county, and State
26 agencies is required to create conditions that empower residents to
27 seek the help they need from public services, including education,
28 health, and public safety services.

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 AAP committee amendments adopted January 8, 2026.

1 d. The residents of this State should not hesitate to participate
2 in worship services, attend school, appear in court, or seek
3 necessary medical care, services, or shelter out of fear.

4 e. Therefore, it is fitting and proper to direct State, county, and
5 municipal entities to attend to local priorities rather than carrying
6 out federal civil law enforcement initiatives for which they lack the
7 requisite experience and that contravenes the priorities of freedom
8 and safety for New Jersey residents.

9
10 3. As used in this act:

11 “Federal civil law enforcement” means any effort to investigate,
12 enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any federal
13 civil immigration law, and includes any effort to investigate,
14 enforce, or assist in the investigation or enforcement of any
15 violations of Title 8 of the United States Code.

16 “Health care facility” means the same as that term is defined by
17 subsection a. of section 2 of P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-2).

18 “Office of social service” means an office or program operated
19 or funded by, or under the auspices or authority of the Department
20 of Children and Families, Department of Community Affairs,
21 Department of Health, or Department of Human Services.

22 “Place of worship” means an edifice used primarily as a place of
23 public or private worship by a recognized and established religious
24 sect or denomination registered as a not-for-profit organization
25 pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code
26 (26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3)).

27
28 4. a. The Attorney General, in consultation with appropriate
29 government entities and stakeholders, shall develop model policies
30 to ensure personal freedom in sensitive locations. These locations
31 shall include health care facilities, public schools, domestic
32 violence shelters, emergency shelters, family shelters, youth
33 shelters, food pantries, funeral homes, harm reduction sites, disaster
34 and emergency response sites, offices of social services,
35 correctional facilities, and courthouses to ensure these institutions
36 remain safe and accessible to all State residents. To the fullest
37 extent possible and consistent with State and federal law, these
38 institutions shall adhere to the model policies developed by the
39 Attorney General or policies that provide greater protections.

40 b. The Attorney General shall publish these model policies on
41 the Internet website of the Department of Law and Public Safety no
42 later than 180 days next following the enactment of this act.

43 c. The Commissioner of Children and Families, Commissioner
44 of Community Affairs, Commissioner of Health, Commissioner of
45 Human Services, Commissioner of Education, Commissioner of
46 Corrections, and Administrative Director of the Courts shall adopt
47 the model policies established pursuant to subsection b. of this

1 section, or policies that provide greater protections, no later than
2 180 days after the model policies are issued.

3 (1) The Commissioner of Education shall require public schools,
4 and shall request private schools, to ¹【comply with the】 adhere to¹
5 model policies adopted pursuant to this section, or policies that
6 provide greater protections ¹【, and to post the adopted policies
7 prominently at each institution in an area that is visible to the
8 public】 . The commissioner also shall publish the adopted policies
9 on the Internet website of the Department of Education¹.

10 (2) The Commissioner of Health shall require health care
11 facilities to ¹【comply with model policies adopted pursuant to this
12 section, or policies that provide greater protections, and to post the
13 adopted policies prominently at each institution in an area that is
14 visible to the public】 implement policies that provide protections
15 similar to the model policies established pursuant to this section.
16 The commissioner also shall publish the model policies established
17 pursuant to this section on the Internet website of the Department of
18 Health¹.

19 (3) The Commissioners of Community Affairs, Children and
20 Families, and Human Services shall require offices of social
21 services to adhere to model policies adopted pursuant to this
22 section, or policies that provide greater protections ¹【, and to post
23 the adopted policies prominently at each institution in an area that is
24 visible to the public】 . The commissioners also shall publish the
25 adopted policies on the Internet websites of the Departments of
26 Community Affairs, Children and Families, and Human Services¹.

27 (4) The Commissioner of Corrections shall require correctional
28 facilities to adhere to model policies adopted pursuant to this
29 section, or policies that provide greater protections ¹【, and to post
30 the adopted policies prominently at each facility in an area that is
31 visible to the public】 . The commissioner also shall publish the
32 adopted policies on the Internet website of the Department of
33 Corrections¹.

34 (5) The Administrative Director of the Courts shall require
35 courthouses to adhere to model policies adopted pursuant to this
36 section, or policies that provide greater protections ¹【, and to post
37 the adopted policies prominently at each institution in an area that is
38 visible to the public】 . The administrative director also shall publish
39 the adopted policies on the Internet website of the Administrative
40 Office of the Courts¹.

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42 5. a. The Attorney General, in consultation with religious
43 leaders within the State, shall develop a model policy that may be
44 adopted in whole or in part by a place of worship to ensure that
45 individuals are not deterred from entering the premises.

1 b. The model policy developed pursuant to subsection a. of this
2 section shall be posted on the Internet website of the Department of
3 Law and Public Safety no later than 180 days next following the
4 enactment of this act.

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6 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

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11 “Safe Communities Act”; requires AG to develop certain model
12 policies.