

SENATE, No. 4738

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 5, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator CARMEN F. AMATO, JR.
District 9 (Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes crime of transnationally organized criminality.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning transnational criminal organizations and
2 supplementing Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

6
7 1. a. As used in this act:

8 “Country” means the United States or any other foreign country,
9 including any political subdivision, territory, dependency, or
10 possession of that country.

11 “Serious bodily injury” means bodily injury that creates a
12 substantial risk of death, causes serious, permanent disfigurement,
13 or results in a protracted loss or impairment of the function of any
14 bodily member or organ.

15 “Transnational criminal organization” means a group of three or
16 more persons acting in concert to commit or attempt to commit any
17 crime enumerated in subsection c of this section, if the conduct
18 constituting the crime or attempt occurs in: (1) more than one
19 country; (2) one country, but a substantial part of its preparation,
20 planning, direction, or control occurs in another country; (3) one
21 country, but the group engages in criminal activities in more than
22 one country; or (4) one country, but the criminal activity has
23 substantial effects in another country.

24 b. A person is guilty of transnationally organized criminality if,
25 for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with a
26 transnational criminal organization, the person knowingly commits,
27 attempts to commit, or conspires to commit, any crime set forth in
28 subsection d. of this section.

29 c. Transnationally organized criminality is a crime of the first
30 degree. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
31 any person convicted under this section shall be sentenced to a term
32 of 30 years, during which the person shall not be eligible for parole,
33 or to a specific term of years between 30 years and life
34 imprisonment, of which the person shall serve not less than 30 years
35 before being eligible for parole. If a violation of this section results
36 in death, the person shall be sentenced to a term of life
37 imprisonment, during which the person shall not be eligible for
38 parole.

39 d. The crimes encompassed by this section are: murder
40 pursuant to N.J.S.2C:11-3; aggravated manslaughter or
41 manslaughter pursuant to N.J.S.2C:11-4; vehicular homicide
42 pursuant to N.J.S.2C:11-5; aggravated assault pursuant to
43 subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:12-1; disarming a law enforcement officer
44 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1996, c.14 (C.2C:12-11); kidnapping
45 pursuant to N.J.S.2C:13-1; criminal restraint pursuant to
46 N.J.S.2C:13-2; robbery pursuant to N.J.S.2C:15-1; carjacking
47 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1993, c.221 (C.2C:15-2); aggravated
48 arson or arson pursuant to subsection a. and b. of N.J.S.2C:17-1;

1 causing or risking widespread injury or damage pursuant to
2 N.J.S.2C:17-2; damage to nuclear plant with the purpose to cause or
3 threat to cause release of radiation pursuant to section 1 of
4 P.L.1983, c.480 (C.2C:17-7); damage to a nuclear plant resulting in
5 death by radiation pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1983, c.480
6 (C.2C:17-8); damage to nuclear plant resulting in injury by
7 radiation pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1983, c.480 (C.2C:17-9);
8 burglary pursuant to N.J.S.2C:18-2; producing or possessing
9 chemical weapons, biological agents, or nuclear or radiological
10 devices pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2002, c.26 (C.2C:38-3);
11 possession of prohibited weapons and devices pursuant to
12 N.J.S.2C:39-3; possession of weapons for unlawful purposes
13 pursuant to N.J.S.2C:39-4; unlawful possession of weapons
14 pursuant to N.J.S.2C:39-5; weapons training for illegal activities
15 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1983, c.229 (C.2C:39-14); racketeering
16 pursuant to N.J.S.2C:41-1 et seq.; and any other crime involving a
17 risk of death or serious bodily injury to any person.

18 e. A prosecution pursuant to this section may be brought by the
19 Attorney General, the Attorney General's assistants and deputies
20 within the Division of Criminal Justice, or by a county prosecutor
21 or a designated assistant prosecutor if the county prosecutor is
22 expressly authorized in writing by the Attorney General to
23 prosecute a violation of this section.

24 f. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.2C:1-8 or any other
25 provision of law, a conviction pursuant to this section shall not
26 merge with a conviction of any other crime or offense, nor shall any
27 other conviction merge with a conviction under this section. The
28 court shall impose separate sentences for each violation of this
29 section and for any other crime or offense.

30 g. Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to
31 preclude, if the evidence so warrants, an indictment and conviction
32 for murder under N.J.S.2C:11-3 or for any other offense.

33
34 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
35
36

37 STATEMENT

38
39 This bill establishes the crime of transnationally organized
40 criminality.

41 Under the bill, a person is guilty of transnationally organized
42 criminality if, for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association
43 with a transnational criminal organization, the person knowingly
44 commits, attempts to commit, or conspires to commit, certain
45 crimes. The bill defines "transnational criminal organization" as
46 any group of three or more persons acting in concert to commit or
47 attempt to commit any crime enumerated in the bill, if the conduct
48 constituting the crime or attempt occurs in: (1) more than one

1 country; (2) one country, but a substantial part of its preparation,
2 planning, direction, or control occurs in another country; (3) one
3 country, but the group engages in criminal activities in more than
4 one country; or (4) one country, but the criminal activity has
5 substantial effects in another country.

6 The crimes encompassed by the bill include murder; aggravated
7 manslaughter or manslaughter; vehicular homicide; aggravated
8 assault; disarming a law enforcement officer; kidnapping; criminal
9 restraint; robbery; carjacking; aggravated arson or arson; causing or
10 risking widespread injury or damage; damage to nuclear plant with
11 the purpose to cause or threat to cause release of radiation; damage
12 to nuclear plant resulting in death by radiation; damage to nuclear
13 plant resulting in injury by radiation; burglary; producing or
14 possessing chemical weapons, biological agents, or nuclear or
15 radiological devices; possession of prohibited weapons and devices;
16 possession of weapons for unlawful purposes; unlawful possession
17 of weapons; weapons training for illegal activities; racketeering;
18 and any other crime involving a risk of death or serious bodily
19 injury to any person.

20 Transnationally organized criminality is a first-degree crime.
21 The bill provides that a person convicted is to be sentenced to a
22 term of 30 years, during which the person will not be eligible for
23 parole, or to a specific term of years between 30 years and life
24 imprisonment, of which the person shall serve not less than 30 years
25 before being eligible for parole. In addition, if the associated crime
26 results in death, the person is to be sentenced to a term of life
27 imprisonment, during which the person will not be eligible for
28 parole.

29 Under the bill, a conviction for transnationally organized
30 criminality will not merge with a conviction for any other crime or
31 offense, and the court is to impose a separate sentence for a
32 violation of the bill's provisions and for any other crime or offense.