

SENATE, No. 4788

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 5, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER
District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Provides law enforcement officer benefits to certain public employees enrolled in PERS; prohibits appointment by State or county of public employees after age 35 in certain positions eligible for PFRS.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning age restrictions and retirement benefits for
2 certain public employees and amending and supplementing
3 various parts of the statutory law.

4

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

7

8 1. (New section) Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to
9 the contrary, any person employed on the effective date of
10 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill) by the
11 State, a county, fire district, school district, or a municipality, or
12 agency thereof, who holds a position as a “law enforcement officer”
13 as defined by section 1 of P.L.1955, c. 257 (C.43:15A-97) and who
14 was enrolled in the Public Employees’ Retirement System prior to
15 the effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as
16 this bill) shall be enrolled as a participant in the law enforcement
17 officer category of the system within 90 days of that effective date,
18 unless the member signs a waiver of participation. The Division of
19 Pensions and Benefits in the Department of the Treasury shall
20 provide notice to all individuals eligible to be enrolled in the law
21 enforcement officer category of the system within 30 days
22 following the effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the
23 Legislature as this bill) along with instructions on how a member
24 may waive participation in the law enforcement officer category of
25 the system. The member shall have 60 days to sign and return the
26 provided waiver of participation form. A member who signs the
27 waiver shall remain enrolled as a non-law enforcement officer in
28 the Public Employees’ Retirement System and the member shall not
29 be subject to compulsory retirement as provided in section 3 of
30 P.L.1955, c.257 (C.43:15A-99).

31 Any member who is enrolled as a participant of the law
32 enforcement officer category of the system in accordance with this
33 section shall be eligible for all the benefits and shall be subject to
34 all the requirements set forth in P.L.1955, c.257 (C.43:15A-97 et
35 seq.) from the date the member is made a participant. All service
36 credit earned by the member in a position eligible for participation
37 in the category shall be considered service credit as a law
38 enforcement officer in that category when the member is enrolled as
39 a participant of the law enforcement officer category.

40 In the event that the actuary of the Public Employee’s Retirement
41 System determines that a liability has been incurred by the
42 provisions of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this
43 bill), the employee shall be responsible for the amount equal to the
44 difference between the value of their prior service and their transfer
45 to the law enforcement section of the system. The payment may be

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 made in a lump sum or in regular monthly installments equal to at
2 least fifty percent of the employee's normal contribution to the
3 retirement system over a period not to exceed 10 years, as the
4 employee may elect, pursuant to rules and regulations as may be
5 promulgated by the board of trustees.

6
7 2. (New section) Notwithstanding any other law, rule, or
8 regulation to the contrary, on or after the effective date of
9 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), no
10 person who is over the age of 35 years shall be appointed by a
11 county or the State to a position that is eligible for enrollment in the
12 Police and Firemen's Retirement System, established pursuant to
13 P.L.1944, c.255 (C.43:16A-2 et seq.).

14 Wherein Title 11A (Civil Service) of the New Jersey Statutes is
15 operative, any person who shall have met the age requirement
16 herein at the announced closing date of a civil service examination
17 for the position shall be considered within the age requirement
18 while the civil service list promulgated as a result of that
19 examination is in effect.

20 Nothing herein contained shall affect the employment or
21 continuance in office of any person employed prior to the effective
22 date of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

23
24 3. Section 1 of P.L.1955, c.257 (C.43:15A-97) is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 1. "Law enforcement officer" shall mean any permanent and
27 full-time employee of the State of New Jersey holding one of the
28 following titles: motor vehicles officer, motor vehicles sergeant,
29 motor vehicles lieutenant, motor vehicles captain, assistant chief,
30 bureau of enforcement, and chief, bureau of enforcement in the
31 Division of Motor Vehicles, and highway patrol officer, sergeant
32 highway patrol bureau, lieutenant highway patrol bureau, captain
33 highway patrol bureau, assistant chief highway patrol bureau, chief
34 highway patrol bureau in the Division of State Police, and
35 inspector, investigator, and administrative inspector in the Division
36 of Alcoholic Beverage Control, and inspector recruit alcoholic
37 beverage control, inspector alcoholic beverage control, senior
38 inspector alcoholic beverage control, principal inspector alcoholic
39 beverage control, supervising inspector alcoholic beverage control
40 in the Division of State Police, and conservation police officer,
41 assistant district conservation police officer and district
42 conservation police officer in the Division of Fish and Wildlife in
43 the Department of Environmental Protection, and assistant chief
44 marine police and senior marine patrolman in the Division of
45 Resource Development, and marine police officer, senior marine
46 police officer, principal marine police officer in the Division of
47 State Police, and inspector, officer, senior inspector, and principal
48 inspector in the Division of Shell Fisheries, any permanent and full-

1 time active county detective, sergeant of county detectives,
2 lieutenant of county detectives, captain of county detectives, chief
3 of county detectives, and county investigator in the offices of the
4 county prosecutors, and sheriff's officer, sergeant sheriff's officer,
5 lieutenant sheriff's officer, captain sheriff's officer, chief sheriff's
6 officer, and sheriff's investigator in the offices of the county
7 sheriffs, and any patrolman or other police officer of the Board of
8 Commissioners of the Palisades Interstate Park appointed pursuant
9 to R.S.32:14-21. The term shall also mean county corrections
10 police officer, county corrections police sergeant, county
11 corrections police lieutenant, county corrections police captain, and
12 investigator in a county department of corrections, and officer,
13 detective, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain of a county police
14 department, State corrections officer and detective and investigator
15 in the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and
16 Public Safety, sheriff's corrections police officer, sheriff's
17 corrections police sergeant, sheriff's corrections police lieutenant,
18 and sheriff's corrections police captain, Burlington County Bridge
19 Commission police officer, Burlington County Bridge Commission
20 police sergeant, Burlington County Bridge Commission police
21 lieutenant, and Burlington County Bridge Commission police
22 captain, Cherry Hill campus police officer, any permanent and full
23 time firefighter, emergency medical technician, and public safety
24 dispatcher employed by the State, a county, fire district, or a
25 municipality, or agency thereof, Parole Officer, Senior Parole
26 Officer, Parole Sergeant or Assistant District Parole Officer, Parole
27 Lieutenant or District Parole Supervisor, Parole Captain, Deputy
28 Chief of Parole and Chief of Parole.

29 If the Prison Officers' Pension Fund is terminated as provided in
30 section 10 hereof, "law enforcement officer" shall also mean any
31 permanent and full-time active employee of the State of New Jersey
32 holding the title of correction officer, correction sergeant,
33 correction lieutenant, correction captain or deputy keeper in the
34 Division of Correction and Parole, or any member of the Prison
35 Officers' Pension Fund on the date of such termination.

36 (cf: P.L.2019, c.407, s.20)

37
38 4. This act shall take effect immediately.
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41 STATEMENT

42
43 This bill provides for law enforcement officer benefits for certain
44 public employees enrolled in the Public Employees' Retirement
45 System (PERS) and prohibits hiring by the State or any county of
46 public employees after age 35 in positions eligible for enrollment in
47 the Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS).

1 Under current law, certain individuals holding specified titles are
2 eligible to receive enhanced benefits through the law enforcement
3 officer category of PERS, known as PERS-LEO. This bill amends
4 the definition of “law enforcement officer” to include additional
5 titles.

6 Under the bill, any person employed on the effective date of the
7 bill by the State, a county, fire district, school district, or a
8 municipality, who holds a position as a “law enforcement officer”
9 and who was enrolled in PERS prior to the bill’s effective date will
10 be enrolled as a participant in the law enforcement officer category
11 of PERS within 90 days of that effective date, unless the member
12 signs a waiver of participation. The Division of Pensions and
13 Benefits in the Department of the Treasury will provide notice to all
14 individuals eligible to be enrolled in the law enforcement officer
15 category of the system within 30 days following the bill’s effective
16 date, along with instructions on how a member may waive
17 participation in the law enforcement officer category of the system.
18 The member will have 60 days to sign and return the waiver of
19 participation form provided. A person who waived enrollment will
20 remain enrolled as a non-law enforcement officer in PERS and the
21 member will not be subject to compulsory retirement as provided
22 under current law.

23 Under the bill, any member who is enrolled as a participant of
24 the law enforcement officer category of the system will be eligible
25 for all the benefits and subject to all the requirements for members
26 of that category from the date the member is made a participant.
27 All service credit earned by the member in a position eligible for
28 participation in the law enforcement category will be considered
29 service credit as a law enforcement officer in that category when the
30 member is enrolled as a participant of the law enforcement officer
31 category.

32 The bill further provides that, in the event that the PERS actuary
33 determines that a liability has been incurred by the provisions of
34 this bill, the employee will be responsible for the amount equal to
35 the difference between the value of their prior service and their
36 transfer to the law enforcement section of the system. The payment
37 may be made in a lump sum or in regular monthly installments
38 equal to at least fifty percent of the employee's normal contribution
39 to the retirement system over a period not to exceed 10 years, as the
40 employee may elect, pursuant to rules and regulations as may be
41 promulgated by the board of trustees.

42 The bill also prohibits the State or counties from appointing any
43 individual over the age of 35 to a position that is eligible for
44 enrollment in Police and Firemen’s Retirement System (PFRS).
45 However, where civil service laws apply, any person who meets the
46 age requirements at the announced closing date of a civil service
47 examination will be considered within the age requirement while

- 1 the civil service list promulgated as a result of that examination is
- 2 in effect.