

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3839

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 12, 2023

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3839.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill requires the Commissioner of Corrections to institute a 10-minute shift overlap in each of the 11 correctional facilities in this State for the purpose of information dissemination between correctional police officers beginning and ending their shifts, and provides a one-year salary increase to correctional police officers as compensation for working the shift overlap.

Under the program of shift overlap established under the bill, a correctional police officer whose shift has ended would be required to remain at his or her post for 10 minutes after the end of the shift to report what happened during that shift to the incoming officer.

As compensation for working the shift overlap, all correctional police officers are to receive a one-time, three percent salary increase. The compensation for the shift overlap is to be applied to each officer's base pensionable salary, to be paid in 26 equal installments on each regular pay period designated on the State of New Jersey's annual payroll calendar during the year following the effective date of the amended bill.

Shift overlap enhances the safety and well-being of the officers and inmates in correctional facilities by allowing for the sharing of information between incoming and outgoing officers, particularly on issues such as gang activities and contraband.

According to the Assembly Prison Gang Violence Task Force final report, issued December 12, 2006, the Department of Corrections historically provided for shift overlap periods of up to 30 minutes, but gradually reduced these periods until they were ultimately phased out altogether due to budget constraints.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4061 (1R) as reported by the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee on May 18, 2023.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to provide, as compensation for working the shift overlap required under the bill, that all

correctional police officers are to receive a one-time, three percent salary increase, to be applied to each officer's base pensionable salary and to be paid in 26 equal installments on each regular pay period designated on the State of New Jersey's annual payroll calendar during the year following the effective date of the amended bill.