

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3839

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 28, 2023

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3839 (1R)

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, sergeants, and lieutenants beginning and ending their shifts, and appropriates \$13,000,000 to the Department of Corrections.

The amended bill establishes a shift overlap in order to enhance 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. Under the bill, a correctional police officer whose shift has ended would be required to remain for 10 minutes after the end of the shift to report what happened during that shift to the incoming officer. The amended bill appropriates \$13,000,000 to the Department of Corrections for the purpose of implementing the provisions of the amended bill which is to be distributed to Department of Corrections correctional police officers, sergeants, and lieutenants, subject to the terms of a collective negotiation or collective bargaining agreement.

According to the Assembly Prison Gang Violence Task Force final report, issued December 12, 2006, the Department of Corrections (DOC) 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, Senate Bill No. 3839 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4061, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) appropriate \$13,000,000 from the general fund to the DOC for the purpose of implementing the shift overlap required under the bill,

which is to be distributed to DOC correctional police officers, sergeants, and lieutenants, subject to the terms of a collective negotiation or collective bargaining agreement; and

(2) remove from the bill language that provides a one-time, three percent salary increase, to be applied to each officer's base pensionable salary and paid in 26 equal installments on each regular pay period designated on the State of New Jersey's annual payroll calendar.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services finds that this bill would result in a \$13 million State expenditure increase. The bill establishes a 10-minute shift overlap for the purpose of information dissemination between correctional police officers, sergeants, and lieutenants beginning and ending their shifts, and appropriates \$13 million to the DOC for the purpose of implementing the provisions of the bill.