

ASSEMBLY, No. 3801

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 9, 2014

Sponsored by:

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District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman NANCY F. MUNOZ

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

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District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Creates pilot program concerning domestic violence; creates additional Superior Court judgeships.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/14/2014)

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2

1 AN ACT establishing a domestic violence court pilot program in two
2 vicinages and additional Superior Court judgeships, amending
3 N.J.S.2B:2-1, supplementing chapter 25 of Title 2C of the New
4 Jersey Statutes.

5

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

8

9 1. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that
10 domestic violence harms many layers of society from the individual
11 victim exposed to intimate partner violence to a broader threat to
12 the workforce at large caused by domestic violence spilling over
13 into the workplace, as well as the interruption to individual
14 productivity caused by injury or the fear of injury. Because of the
15 hazards posed by persons who commit acts of violence against
16 intimate partners it is fitting and proper that a specialized court with
17 judges knowledgeable in criminal law and procedure, particularly in
18 relation to intimate partner violence, be established to adjudicate
19 these cases with expediency. Establishing a Domestic Violence
20 Court Pilot Program in Monmouth and Camden Counties will
21 provide information concerning the advantages of operating a
22 specialized court to deal exclusively with domestic violence crimes
23 and offenses and the feasibility of expanding such a program in all
24 the counties of this State.

25

26 2. N.J.S.2B:2-1 is amended to read as follows:

27 2B:2-1. Number of Judges.

28 a. The Superior Court shall consist of 443 judges.

29 b. (1) The Superior Court shall at all times consist of the
30 following number of judges, who at the time of their appointment
31 and reappointment were resident of each county:

32	Atlantic	11
33	Bergen	28
34	Burlington	10
35	Camden	[16] <u>17</u>
36	Cape May	4
37	Cumberland	7
38	Essex	34
39	Gloucester	11
40	Hudson	24
41	Hunterdon	3
42	Mercer	9
43	Middlesex	24
44	Monmouth	[18] <u>19</u>
45	Morris	16
46	Ocean	15

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.

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1	Passaic	17
2	Salem	3
3	Somerset	6
4	Sussex	4
5	Union	20
6	Warren	3

7 (2) Additionally, the following number of those judges of the
8 Superior Court satisfying the residency requirements set forth above
9 shall at all times sit in the county in which they reside:

10	Atlantic	4
11	Bergen	12
12	Burlington	4
13	Camden	8
14	Cape May	2
15	Cumberland	4
16	Essex	14
17	Gloucester	6
18	Hudson	6
19	Hunterdon	2
20	Mercer	6
21	Middlesex	8
22	Monmouth	4
23	Morris	6
24	Ocean	8
25	Passaic	6
26	Salem	2
27	Somerset	4
28	Sussex	2
29	Union	6
30	Warren	2

31 (cf: P.L.2008, c.26,s.1)

32

33 3. (New section) a. There is hereby established a three-year
34 pilot program in the Camden and Monmouth vicinages responsible
35 exclusively for domestic violence cases.

36 b. ny court in a pilot program vicinage may refer a case
37 involving domestic violence to the Domestic Violence Court.

38 c. udges assigned to the Domestic Violence Court shall have
39 extensive knowledge of and experience in criminal law, criminal
40 procedure and criminal sentencing, particularly in relation to
41 domestic violence crimes and offenses.

42 d. he decision of a judge of the Domestic Violence Court shall
43 be binding and subject to the right of appeal to the Appellate
44 Division of the Superior Court.

45

46 4. (New section) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall
47 monitor the pilot program and report to the legislature after the
48 program has been in effect 12 months and within six months after

1 the expiration of the pilot program. The report shall evaluate the
2 effectiveness of the pilot program and recommend whether the
3 program should be discontinued or expanded.

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5 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
6 after enactment and shall expire three years after the effective date.

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STATEMENT

10 This bill creates a three-year Domestic Violence Court Pilot
11 Program in Monmouth and Camden counties.

12 Any case involving domestic violence could be referred to the
13 Domestic Violence Court. Judges assigned to the Domestic
14 Violence Court are to have extensive knowledge of and experience
15 in criminal law, criminal procedure and criminal sentencing.
16 Decisions would be binding and subject to the right of appeal to the
17 Appellate Division of the Superior Court. The Administrative
18 Office of the Courts is to monitor the Domestic Violence Court and
19 report to the Legislature 12 months after the organization of the
20 pilot program and within six months after its expiration. The reports
21 are to include the impact of the pilot program on criminal
22 sentencing and the court's calendar and workload. The report also
23 would evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot program and
24 recommend whether the program should be continued or expanded.