

ASSEMBLY, No. 730

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Mejia

SYNOPSIS

Requires halfway house employees to complete police training course.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/22/2021)

1 **AN ACT** concerning employees of halfway houses and
2 supplementing chapter 17B of Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. Within 180 days of the effective date of this act, the
8 Police Training Commission in the Division of Criminal Justice in
9 the Department of Law and Public Safety, in consultation with the
10 Commissioner of Corrections, shall develop a training course for
11 persons employed by a residential community release program in
12 this State. The course shall, at a minimum, provide comprehensive
13 and consistent training in maintaining a safe and secure
14 environment, preventing violence, protecting inmates and staff, and
15 limiting escapes and absconding. Every employee of a residential
16 community release program whose duties involve regular contact
17 with inmates, including employees who provide drug treatment,
18 education, job training, medical, and other services preparing
19 inmates to return to society, shall be required to satisfactorily
20 complete the course.

21 b. The training course developed by the commission pursuant
22 to subsection a. of this section shall be offered at each school
23 approved by the commission to provide police training courses
24 pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.).
25 The commission shall ensure that a person assigned to instruct the
26 course is proficient and experienced in the administration of
27 residential community release programs.

28 c. The commission shall approve a training course for persons
29 employed by a residential community release program offered by an
30 entity other than the commission if the requirements of that course
31 are substantially equivalent to the requirements set forth for the
32 training course established by the commission as required by
33 subsection a. of this section.

34 d. The commission shall award a certificate to each person who
35 successfully completes the course.

36 e. The Police Training Commission, in consultation with the
37 Commissioner of Corrections, shall adopt rules and regulations
38 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
39 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to implement the provisions of this section.

40

41 2. a. Following the development of the training course
42 required by section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
43 Legislature as this bill) or 180 days following the effective date of
44 this act, whichever occurs first, every person employed by a
45 residential community release program shall satisfactorily complete
46 the training within 90 days.

47 b. Following the development of the training course required
48 by section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature

1 as this bill) or 180 days following the effective date of this act,
2 whichever occurs first, any person hired by a residential community
3 release program shall satisfactorily complete the training course
4 prior to commencing employment at the facility.

5
6 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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9 STATEMENT

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11 This bill would require employees in this State's residential
12 community release programs, commonly referred to as halfway
13 houses, to satisfactorily complete a training course developed by the
14 Police Training Commission or a substantially equivalent course
15 offered by another entity.

16 The training course is to provide comprehensive and consistent
17 training in maintaining a safe and secure environment, preventing
18 violence, protecting inmates and staff, and limiting inmate escapes.
19 Every employee of a residential community release program whose
20 duties involve regular contact with inmates, including employees
21 who provide drug treatment, education, job training, medical, and
22 other services preparing inmates to return to society, would be
23 required to take the course developed by the commission or a
24 substantially equivalent course.

25 The Police Training Commission is required to develop the
26 course within six months of the effective date of the bill. Once the
27 course is developed, current halfway house employees would be
28 required to complete the course within 90 days. Prospective
29 employees would have to complete the course before commencing
30 employment.