

ASSEMBLY, No. 1671

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DLPS to establish and make available to law enforcement agencies training materials concerning interactions with hearing impaired; requires annual training for law enforcement and contracting with qualified interpreters.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/27/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning law enforcement practices and supplementing
2 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. The Department of Law and Public Safety shall develop
8 or identify training course materials and an online tutorial regarding
9 appropriate recognition and response techniques concerning the
10 interaction of law enforcement officers with the hearing impaired,
11 including, but not limited to, a hearing impaired person's right to
12 the assistance of a qualified interpreter pursuant to P.L.1983, c.564
13 (C.34:1-69.7 et seq.).

14 b. The Department of Law and Public Safety shall cause the
15 training course materials and online tutorial developed or identified
16 pursuant to subsection a. of this section to be made available to
17 every State, county, and municipal law enforcement department in
18 the State and to each campus police department at an institution of
19 higher education in the State that appoints police officers pursuant
20 to P.L.1970, c.211 (C.18A:6-4.2 et seq.) for use in providing officer
21 training.

22 c. The Department of Law and Public Safety shall periodically
23 assess the training course materials and online tutorial developed or
24 identified pursuant to subsection a. of this section and update them
25 where the department finds appropriate.

26 d. Every State, county, and municipal law enforcement
27 department in the State and every campus police department at an
28 institution of higher education in the State that appoints police
29 officers pursuant to P.L.1970, c.211 (C.18A:6-4.2 et seq.) shall
30 provide annual in-service training of its personnel utilizing the
31 training course materials or online tutorial developed or identified
32 by the Department of Law and Public Safety pursuant to subsection
33 a. of this section.

34 e. Every State, county, and municipal law enforcement
35 department in the State and every campus police department at an
36 institution of higher education in the State that appoints police
37 officers pursuant to P.L.1970, c.211 (C.18A:6-4.2 et seq.) shall
38 contract with an agency that is capable of providing a qualified
39 interpreter within two hours of a request.

40 As used in this act:

41 "Hearing impaired person" shall have the same meaning as in
42 section 2 of P.L.1983, c.564 (C.34:1-69.8).

43 "Qualified interpreter" shall have the same meaning as in section
44 2 of P.L.1983, c.564 (C.34:1-69.8).

45

46 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh
47 month following enactment.

STATEMENT

This bill requires the Department of Law and Public Safety (DLPS) to develop or identify training course materials and an online tutorial regarding appropriate recognition and response techniques concerning the interaction of law enforcement officers with the hearing impaired. The training is required to include information regarding when a hearing impaired person has the right to request the assistance of a qualified interpreter. Under the bill, the DLPS is required to make the training materials and online tutorial available to every State, county, and municipal law enforcement department and at every institution of higher education in the State that appoints police officers.

This bill also requires every State, county, and municipal law enforcement department and every institution of higher education in the State that appoints police officers to provide annual in-service training according to the training protocols established by the DLPS and to contract with an agency that is capable of providing a qualified interpreter within two hours of a request.

The bill defines a “hearing impaired person” as a person whose hearing is impaired so as to prohibit the person from understanding oral communication and further includes a person who, because of loss of hearing, cannot communicate spoken language. In addition, the bill defines a “qualified interpreter” as an interpreter certified by the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, Inc. and listed by the State Division of the Deaf in the Department of Labor or the New Jersey Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf.