

ASSEMBLY, No. 3331

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Exempts certain officers trained in animal cruelty from certain additional Police Training Commission training courses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning Police Training Commission animal cruelty
2 training and amending P.L.2005, c.372 and P.L.2017, c.331.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. Section 11 of P.L.2005, c.372 (C.4:22-11.11) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 11. a. The Police Training Commission, in collaboration with
10 the Attorney General, shall develop or approve a training course for
11 animal protection law enforcement, which shall include but need
12 not be limited to instruction in:

13 (1) the law, procedures, and enforcement methods and
14 techniques of investigation, arrest, and search and seizure,
15 specifically in connection with violations of State and local animal
16 cruelty laws and ordinances;

17 (2) information and procedures related to animals, including
18 animal behavior and traits and evaluation of animals at a crime
19 scene;

20 (3) methods to identify and document animal abuse, neglect, and
21 distress; and

22 (4) investigation of animal fighting.

23 b. Every municipal humane law enforcement officer, humane
24 law enforcement officer of a county society for the prevention of
25 cruelty to animals, and chief humane law enforcement officer or
26 other officer designated pursuant to subparagraph (a) of paragraph
27 (2) of subsection a. of section 28 of P.L.2017, c.331 (C.4:22-14.4)
28 shall satisfactorily complete the animal protection law enforcement
29 training course as soon as practicable, but no later than one year
30 after the date of the officer's designation.

31 c. (1) **【The chief law enforcement officer of a municipality, or**
32 **of a county, as applicable, may request from the Police Training**
33 **Commission an exemption from applicable law enforcement parts**
34 **of the animal protection law enforcement training course on behalf**
35 **of a current or prospective municipal humane law enforcement**
36 **officer, humane law enforcement officer of a county society for the**
37 **prevention of cruelty to animals, or chief humane law enforcement**
38 **officer or other officer designated pursuant to subparagraph (a) of**
39 **paragraph (2) of subsection a. of section 28 of P.L.2017, c.331**
40 **(C.4:22-14.4) who demonstrates successful completion of a police**
41 **training course conducted by a federal, state, or other public or**
42 **private agency, the requirements of which are substantially**
43 **equivalent to or which exceed the corresponding requirements】**

44 Except as provided pursuant to subsection e. of this section:

45 (a) any person who, prior to the date of enactment of P.L.2017,

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.

1 c.331 (C.4:22-14.1 et al.), has successfully completed phase 1 and
2 phase 2 of the Basic Humane Law Enforcement Course of the
3 animal protection law enforcement training course curriculum, or
4 similar course, established through the Police Training Commission
5 shall be exempt from the training required pursuant to subsection a.
6 and b. of this section; and

7 (b) any active or retired municipal police officer, county
8 investigator, sheriff's officer, correctional police officer, Class Two
9 special law enforcement officer, humane law enforcement officer,
10 or member of the State Police who, prior to the date of enactment of
11 P.L.2017, c.331 (C.4:22-14.1 et al.), has successfully completed
12 phase 1 of the Basic Humane Law Enforcement Course of the
13 animal protection law enforcement training course curriculum, or
14 similar course, established through the Police Training Commission
15 shall be exempt from the training required pursuant to subsections
16 a. and b. of this section.

17 (2) The chief law enforcement officer of a municipality, or of a
18 county, as applicable, may request from the Police Training
19 Commission an exemption from applicable animal control parts of
20 the animal protection law enforcement training course on behalf of
21 a current or prospective municipal humane law enforcement officer,
22 humane law enforcement officer of a county society for the
23 prevention of cruelty to animals, or chief humane law enforcement
24 officer or other officer designated pursuant to subparagraph (a) of
25 paragraph (2) of subsection a. of section 28 of P.L.2017, c.331
26 (C.4:22-14.4) who demonstrates successful completion of an animal
27 control course pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1983, c.525 (C.4:19-
28 15.16a). The Police Training Commission may approve the
29 exemption at its discretion, provided that no exemption shall be
30 approved unless the requirement in paragraph (1) of subsection e. of
31 this section has been met and the commission determines the person
32 is not disqualified for an exemption pursuant to paragraph (2) of
33 subsection e. of this section.

34 d. The Police Training Commission shall provide for the
35 issuance of a certificate to a person who possesses, or acquires, the
36 training and education required to qualify as a municipal humane
37 law enforcement officer, humane law enforcement officer of a
38 county society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or chief
39 humane law enforcement officer or other officer designated
40 pursuant to subparagraph (a) of paragraph (2) of subsection a. of
41 section 28 of P.L.2017, c.331 (C.4:22-14.4) and shall provide a
42 copy of the certificate to, as applicable, the municipal humane law
43 enforcement officer and the chief law enforcement officer of the
44 municipality or county, or to the humane law enforcement officer
45 and the county society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, or to
46 the chief humane law enforcement officer or other officer
47 designated pursuant to subparagraph (a) of paragraph (2) of

1 subsection a. of section 28 of P.L.2017, c.331 (C.4:22-14.4) and the
2 county prosecutor.

3 e. (1) A person eligible for an exemption from the training
4 requirements in subsection a. or b. of this section shall not receive
5 an exemption unless the person submits documentation from the
6 person's primary care physician that the person satisfies standards
7 of health and physical fitness to perform the duties of a municipal
8 police officer, county investigator, sheriff's officer, correctional
9 police officer, Class Two special law enforcement officer, humane
10 law enforcement officer, or member of the State Police, as
11 applicable.

12 (2) An exemption from the training required pursuant to
13 subsection a. or b. of this section shall not be provided to a person:

14 (a) convicted of a crime;

15 (b) found liable for any civil animal cruelty offense pursuant to
16 Title 4 of the Revised Statutes; or

17 (c) separated from duty as a municipal police officer, county
18 investigator, sheriff's officer, correctional police officer, Class Two
19 special law enforcement officer, humane law enforcement officer,
20 or member of the State Police for seven years or more on the date of
21 enactment of P.L.2017, c.331.

22 (cf: P.L.2017, c.331, s.8)

23

24 2. Section 27 of P.L.2017, c.331 (C.4:22-14.3) is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 27. Any humane law enforcement officer **【or agent】** appointed
27 by a county society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, prior to
28 the date of enactment of P.L.2017, c.331 (C.4:22-14.1 et al.), or the
29 New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals shall
30 be eligible for designation as a municipal humane law enforcement
31 officer pursuant to section 26 of P.L.2017, c.331 (C.4:22-14.2)
32 **【or】**, as a humane law enforcement officer of a county society for
33 the prevention of cruelty to animals pursuant to section 29 of
34 P.L.2017, c.331 (C.4:22-14.5), or as a chief humane law
35 enforcement officer or any law enforcement officer under the
36 supervision of the chief humane law enforcement officer designated
37 by the county prosecutor pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection a.
38 of section 28 of P.L.2017 c.331 (C.4:22-14.4).

39 (cf: P.L.2017, c.331 s.27)

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41 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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46 This bill exempts certain persons who have already successfully
47 completed certain Police Training Commission courses from
48 additional animal cruelty training required pursuant to P.L.2017,

1 c.331. It also prohibits certain persons from receiving an exemption
2 from the training requirements.

3 The bill provides that any person who, prior to the date of
4 enactment of P.L.2017, c.331, has successfully completed phase 1
5 and phase 2 of the Police Training Commission Basic Humane Law
6 Enforcement Course or a similar course is exempt from the
7 additional training required pursuant to that law. The bill also
8 authorizes a chief humane law enforcement officer to request an
9 exemption from the training requirements for a current or
10 prospective municipal humane law enforcement officer, humane
11 law enforcement officer of a county society for the prevention of
12 cruelty to animals, or chief humane law enforcement officer or
13 other law enforcement officer who received other animal cruelty
14 training under Title 4 of the Revised Statutes. The bill authorizes
15 the Police Training Commission to grant a request for an exemption
16 from the training requirements at its discretion, provided that
17 certain conditions established in the bill are met.

18 The bill requires a person obtain, before receiving the exemption,
19 documentation from the person's primary care physician that the
20 person satisfies standards of health and physical fitness to perform
21 the duties of a municipal police officer, county investigator,
22 sheriff's officer, correctional police officer, Class Two special law
23 enforcement officer, humane law enforcement officer, or member of
24 the State Police, as applicable. Finally, the bill prohibits a person
25 from receiving an exemption who has been:

- 26 1) convicted of a crime;
27 2) found liable for any civil animal cruelty offense pursuant to
28 Title 4 of the Revised Statutes; or
29 3) separated from duty as a municipal police officer, county
30 investigator, sheriff's officer, correctional police officer, Class Two
31 special law enforcement officer, or member of the State Police for
32 seven years or more on the date of enactment of P.L.2017, c.331.

33 Finally, the bill removes the authorization for agents of a county
34 society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, appointed prior to
35 the date of enactment of P.L.2017, c.331 (C.4:22-14.1 et al.), to be
36 designated as municipal humane law enforcement officer, a humane
37 law enforcement officer of a county society for the prevention of
38 cruelty to animals, or as a chief humane law enforcement officer or
39 a law enforcement officer under the supervision of the chief humane
40 law enforcement officer.