

ASSEMBLY, No. 3507

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ERIK PETERSON

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain law enforcement officers to present identification while on-duty.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning identification of certain law enforcement
2 officers and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. Each law enforcement officer in this State shall provide
8 sufficient identification while acting in the performance of the
9 officer's official duties including, but not limited to, the duties
10 performed during a motor vehicle stop.

11 b. For the purposes of this section, an officer shall be deemed
12 to have provided sufficient identification if the officer satisfies two
13 or more of the following conditions:

14 (1) the officer is dressed in a department-issued uniform bearing
15 the agency insignia;

16 (2) the officer presents a department-issued identification card
17 bearing the officer's photograph and identifying information;

18 (3) the officer presents a badge, tag, or label which identifies
19 the officer by number or other department-issued identification; or

20 (4) the officer operates a vehicle to which the official agency
21 insignia is permanently affixed and is clearly visible from a distance
22 of 50 feet.

23 c. This section shall not apply when the release of sufficient
24 identification could jeopardize the safety of the law enforcement
25 officer or the integrity of an authorized investigation.

26 d. This section shall not be construed to prohibit a law
27 enforcement officer in plain clothes or operating an unmarked
28 vehicle from intervening in urgent matters of public safety.

29 e. The Attorney General may promulgate regulations pursuant to
30 the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
31 seq.), as are necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act.

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33 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
34 next following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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39 This bill requires certain law enforcement officers to provide
40 sufficient identification while performing their official duties.

41 Under current law, there is no requirement that law enforcement
42 officers show identification or otherwise exhibit signs of their
43 status. As such, members of the community may not have the
44 ability to verify the official status of a law enforcement officer. It
45 is the sponsor's belief that the provisions of the bill are necessary to
46 maintain the safety and integrity of routine law enforcement
47 interactions.

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1 Under the bill, each law enforcement officer acting in the
2 performance of the officer's official duties, including the duties
3 performed during a motor vehicle stop, is required to show
4 sufficient identification. The bill provides that an officer will be
5 deemed to have provided sufficient identification if the officer
6 complies with two or more of the following conditions: the officer
7 is dressed in a department-issued uniform bearing the agency
8 insignia; the officer presents a department-issued identification card
9 bearing the officer's photograph and identifying information; the
10 officer presents a badge, tag, or label which identifies the officer by
11 number or other department-issued identification; or the officer
12 operates a vehicle to which the official agency insignia is
13 permanently affixed and is clearly visible from a distance of 50 feet.

14 Pursuant to the bill, these provisions would not apply when the
15 release of sufficient identification could jeopardize the safety of the
16 law enforcement officer or the integrity of an authorized
17 investigation, and are not to be construed to prevent a law
18 enforcement officer in plain clothes or operating an unmarked
19 vehicle from intervening in urgent matters of public safety.