

ASSEMBLY, No. 3606

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 5, 2020

Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO
District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes the "Advisory Committee on Law Enforcement Handler-Canine Training."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** establishing an advisory committee on the oversight and
2 training of dogs used for the purposes of law enforcement.

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

6
7 1. a. There is created, within the Office of the Attorney General
8 in the Department of Law and Public Safety, the "Advisory
9 Committee on Law Enforcement Handler-Canine Training."

10 b. The advisory committee shall consist of fifteen members as
11 follows: the Attorney General, the Superintendent of the Division of
12 State Police, the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections, the
13 Administrator of the New Jersey Police Training Commission, ex-
14 officio or their designees; two members of the Senate, to be appointed
15 by the President of the Senate, who shall not be of the same political
16 party; two members of the General Assembly, to be appointed by the
17 Speaker of the General Assembly, who shall not be of the same
18 political party; and seven public members to be appointed by the
19 Governor. Of the seven public members appointed by the Governor:
20 four representatives shall be from the New Jersey State Association of
21 Chiefs of Police; two representatives shall be from the Sheriffs'
22 Association of New Jersey; and one representative shall be from the
23 United States Police Canine association. Of the members of the New
24 Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police appointed to the
25 advisory committee, two shall represent cities of the first and second
26 class and two shall represent cities of the third and fourth class. Of the
27 members of the Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey one shall be a
28 representative of northern New Jersey and one shall be a representative
29 of southern New Jersey. The public members appointed by the
30 Governor shall possess handler-canine team expertise or be
31 knowledgeable of the issues facing the handler-canine training law
32 enforcement community. The members shall appoint a chairperson
33 and vice-chairperson of the advisory committee from among its
34 membership.

35 c. Any vacancy on the advisory committee shall be filled for
36 the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

37 d. The advisory committee shall organize within three months
38 after the appointment of a majority of its members. The committee
39 shall convene a minimum of three times.

40 e. Members of the advisory committee shall serve without
41 compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable
42 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, within the
43 limits of funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the
44 advisory committee for this purpose.

45 f. A majority of the members of the advisory committee shall
46 constitute a quorum, and no action of the advisory committee shall
47 be taken except upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the
48 members of the entire advisory committee.

1 g. The Department of Law and Public Safety shall provide
2 primary staff support to the advisory committee.

3
4 2. The advisory committee shall:

5 a. Analyze current State oversight of training of handler-canine
6 teams used for the purposes of law enforcement and make
7 recommendations, if necessary, to improve the training process;

8 b. Study and analyze the economic and social impact of the
9 potential legalization of marijuana in New Jersey on handler-canine
10 training teams used for the purposes of law enforcement;

11 c. Examine, consider, and make recommendations pertaining to
12 changes required in the handler-canine training program, if any, for
13 effective implementation of marijuana laws and policies; and

14 d. Submit to the Attorney General, not more than one year after
15 its organization, a report with any recommendations for legislation,
16 new rules and regulations, or revisions to existing rules and
17 regulations which the advisory committee deems necessary for
18 proper oversight of training of handler-canine teams used for
19 purposes of law enforcement. A copy of the report shall be
20 transmitted to the Legislature in accordance with the requirements
21 of section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1).

22
23 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire on the
24 30th day after submission by the advisory committee of its report.

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27 STATEMENT

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29 This bill establishes, in the Department of Law and Public
30 Safety, the "Advisory Committee on Law Enforcement Handler-
31 Canine Training."

32 The advisory committee would consist of fifteen members
33 including: the Attorney General, the Superintendent of State Police,
34 the Commissioner of Corrections, and the Administrator of the Police
35 Training Commission, ex-officio or their designees; two members of
36 the Senate; two members of the General Assembly not of the same
37 political party; and seven public members to be appointed by the
38 Governor. The seven public members appointed by the Governor
39 should possess handler-canine team expertise or be knowledgeable of
40 the issues facing the New Jersey handler-canine training law
41 enforcement community. Of the public members appointed: one would
42 represent the United States Police Canine association, two would
43 represent the Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey, and four would
44 represent the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police. The
45 members would appoint a chairperson and vice-chairperson of the
46 advisory committee from among its membership.

47 Members of the advisory committee would serve without
48 compensation, but would be reimbursed for necessary and reasonable
49 expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The Department

1 of Law and Public Safety would be required to provide primary staff
2 support to the advisory committee.

3 The advisory committee is charged with:

4 1. Analyzing current State oversight of the training of handler-
5 canine teams used for the purposes of law enforcement and making
6 recommendations, if necessary, to improve the training process;

7 2. Studying and analyzing the economic and social impact of
8 the potential legalization of marijuana in New Jersey on handler-
9 canine training teams used for the purposes of law enforcement; and

10 3. Examining, considering, and making recommendations
11 pertaining to changes required in handler-canine training for
12 effective implementation of marijuana laws and policies.

13 The advisory committee is to submit to the Attorney General, not
14 more than one year after its organization, a report with any
15 recommendations for legislation, new rules and regulations, or
16 revisions to existing rules and regulations which the advisory
17 committee deems necessary for proper oversight of the training of
18 handler-canine teams used for purposes of law enforcement.

19 New Jersey handler-canine drug detection teams are currently
20 trained to detect marijuana. The potential legalization of
21 recreational marijuana may create legal concerns for officers in
22 conducting drug searches. This advisory committee will provide
23 the Attorney General with recommendations on any needed changes
24 to the training of handler-canine drug detection teams should
25 marijuana be legalized in New Jersey.