

ASSEMBLY, No. 4056

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 7, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman HAROLD "HAL" J. WIRTHS

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman ROBERT AUTH

District 39 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Space

SYNOPSIS

Encourages wearing blue to honor law enforcement officers on Peace Officers Memorial Day.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/14/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning Peace Officers Memorial Day and amending
2 P.L.1998, c.150.

3

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

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7 1. Section 2 of P.L.1998, c.150 (C.36:2-50) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 2. May 15th is permanently designated "Peace Officers
10 Memorial Day" in New Jersey and the local governmental units and
11 the citizens of this State, along with the residents of each
12 community, are encouraged:

13 a. To join in the observance of Peace Officers Memorial Day
14 on May 15th of each year in order to recognize, applaud and
15 sincerely thank those men and women who, serving night and day
16 as law enforcement officers, protect and safeguard our lives and
17 property;

18 b. To honor all those law enforcement officers--federal, State
19 and local--who have been killed or disabled in the line of duty by
20 displaying at half-staff the flag of the United States on that day;
21 **[and]**

22 c. To organize and sponsor appropriate ceremonies and
23 activities reflective of the sincere and deep appreciation the citizens
24 of our State and communities extend to the men and women of the
25 law enforcement community; and

26 d. In the case of local governmental units, to promote the
27 wearing of blue and in the case of citizens of our State and
28 communities, to wear blue in order to demonstrate the sincere and
29 deep appreciation these citizens have for the men and women of the
30 law enforcement community who are dedicated to protecting and
31 safeguarding our lives and property, despite the substantial risks
32 they face each and every day.

33 (cf: P.L.1998, c.150, s.2)

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35 2. This act shall take effect immediately

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STATEMENT

39

40 This bill would encourage local governmental units to promote
41 the wearing of blue, and the citizens of this State and the residents
42 of each community to wear blue on Peace Officers Memorial Day in
43 honor of the men and women of the law enforcement community.

44 In New Jersey, May 15th is designated Peace Officers Memorial
45 Day. Each year on this day, the local governmental units and

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 citizens of this State, along with the residents of each community,
2 are encouraged to recognize, applaud, and sincerely thank those
3 men and women who, serving night and day as law enforcement
4 officers, protect and safeguard our lives and property. They are
5 encouraged to display the flag of the United States at half-staff in
6 honor of all federal, State and local law enforcement officers who
7 have been killed or disabled in the line of duty, and are encouraged
8 to organize and sponsor appropriate ceremonies and activities which
9 are reflective of the sincere and deep appreciation the citizens of
10 our State and communities extend to the men and women of the law
11 enforcement community.

12 There are approximately 900,000 sworn law enforcement
13 officers now serving in the United States. Over the past 10 years,
14 an average of 146 officers have died in the line of duty every year.
15 On average, there have been 58,930 assaults nationally against law
16 enforcement officers which have resulted in 15,404 injuries each
17 year.

18 In light of the recent negativity directed toward law enforcement
19 officers and an erosion of respect for their authority throughout this
20 country, there is an urgent need to show that the citizens of our
21 State have a sincere and deep appreciation for the men and women
22 of the law enforcement community who, despite the substantial
23 risks they face each and every day, are dedicated to protecting and
24 safeguarding our lives and property.