

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4347**

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

---

INTRODUCED JULY 2, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER**

**District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Permits Adjutant General to authorize members of NJ National Guard to carry firearm at recruiting centers.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the carrying of firearms by members of the  
2 New Jersey National Guard at recruiting centers and  
3 supplementing P.L.1963, c.109 (C.38A:1-1).  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:  
7

8 1. a. The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and  
9 Veterans' Affairs may authorize one or more members of the New  
10 Jersey National Guard assigned to each National Guard recruiting  
11 center, while those members are actually on duty, or while those  
12 members are traveling between places of duty, to carry a firearm in  
13 a manner prescribed by the Adjutant General.

14 b. The Adjutant General shall ensure that any such member  
15 receives appropriate training in the use of the weapon, including in  
16 all laws applicable to the carrying and use of a weapon in New  
17 Jersey. The Adjutant General shall adopt policies concerning the  
18 security of the weapon when the member who is authorized is not  
19 on duty.  
20

21 2. This act shall take effect immediately.  
22  
23

24 STATEMENT  
25

26 This bill permits the Adjutant General to authorize one or more  
27 members of the New Jersey National Guard assigned to each  
28 National Guard recruiting center, while those members are actually  
29 on duty, or while those members are traveling between places of  
30 duty, to carry an authorized weapon in a manner prescribed by the  
31 Adjutant General. There may be one or more armed members of  
32 the National Guard at each National Guard recruiting center. The  
33 Adjutant General is to ensure that any such member receives  
34 appropriate training in the use of the weapon, including all laws  
35 applicable to the carrying and use of a weapon in New Jersey, and  
36 adopt policies concerning the security of the weapon when the  
37 member who is authorized is not on duty.

38 In 2009, a shooting at a military base in Fort Hood, Texas, left  
39 13 people dead and more than 30 others injured. Another shooting  
40 in April of 2014 at several locations on the Fort Hood military base  
41 resulted in the deaths of five people, including the gunman, and  
42 fourteen injuries.

43 On Thursday, July 16, 2015, Mohammad Youssuf Abdulazeez  
44 opened fire at a military recruiting center in Chattanooga,  
45 Tennessee, and then moved to a U.S. Navy facility seven miles  
46 away where he fatally shot four U.S. Marines, one U.S. Navy  
47 Sailor, and wounded two others before dying by police gunfire.

1       States including Indiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas,  
2       Utah, and Florida have made changes to permit guard members to  
3       be armed in the wake of the shootings in Chattanooga. New Jersey  
4       cannot allow its citizen soldiers to remain vulnerable to attack in  
5       this way. This legislation will help better safeguard military  
6       facilities and allow those who bravely defend this country and this  
7       State to defend themselves. This legislation will implement  
8       lifesaving security measures in light of this national tragedy.