

ASSEMBLY, No. 4432

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 23, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes public assembly safety public awareness campaign.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing a public assembly safety public awareness
2 campaign and supplementing Title 2C of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. The Attorney General shall take appropriate steps to promote
9 public awareness of safely engaging in demonstrations, protests,
10 and other forms of public assembly in order to reduce the risk of
11 harm to those assembled and other persons in the community,
12 including:

13 a. providing printed educational materials and public service
14 announcements:

15 (1) concerning the process for obtaining permits for public
16 assemblies, in order for law enforcement agencies to work with
17 members of the public to ensure the safety of everyone involved;

18 (2) concerning information about the dangers of obstruction of
19 traffic and impeding the ability of first responders to respond to
20 emergencies, at the public assembly and elsewhere in the
21 community; and

22 (3) concerning the provisions of N.J.S.2C:33-1, N.J.S.2C:33-2,
23 and N.J.S.2C:33-7;

24 b. distributing the printed educational materials required
25 pursuant to subsection a. of this subsection to municipalities for
26 distribution to the public, through entities, including, but not limited
27 to, police departments, libraries, community centers, and other
28 community-based organizations;

29 c. making the educational materials available on the Internet
30 website of the Department of Law and Public Safety, and the
31 individual websites or pages of any appropriate division thereof,
32 including, but not limited to, the website of the Division of State
33 Police; and

34 d. urging county sheriffs, county prosecutors, and the chiefs of
35 police of county and municipal police departments to make the
36 educational materials available on their respective Internet websites
37 or to link to a State website containing the materials.

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39 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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44 This bill requires the Attorney General to establish a public
45 awareness campaign to promote public awareness of safely
46 engaging in demonstrations, protests, and other forms of public
47 assembly in order to reduce the risk of harm to those assembled and
48 other persons in the community.

1 Under the bill, the campaign would be required to include
2 printed educational materials and public service announcements:
3 (1) concerning the process for obtaining permits for public
4 assemblies, in order for law enforcement agencies to work with
5 members of the public to ensure the safety of everyone involved;
6 (2) concerning information about the dangers of obstruction of
7 traffic and impeding the ability of first responders to respond to
8 emergencies, at the public assembly and elsewhere in the
9 community; and
10 (3) concerning the current provisions of law related to rioting,
11 failure to disperse, disorderly conduct, and obstructing highways
12 and other public passages.
13 The bill requires the Attorney General to distribute the materials
14 to municipalities for distribution to the public, through entities,
15 including, but not limited to, police departments, libraries,
16 community centers, and other community-based organizations.
17 Additionally, the bill requires the Attorney General to make the
18 materials available on the website of the Department of Law and
19 Public Safety, and the individual websites or pages of any of its
20 divisions, including, but not limited to the website of the State
21 Police. The bill further requires the Attorney General to urge county
22 sheriffs, county prosecutors, and the chiefs of police of county and
23 municipal police departments to make the materials available on
24 their respective websites or to link to a State website containing the
25 materials.