

ASSEMBLY, No. 4741

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes minimum educational requirements for county and municipal law enforcement officers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the qualifications for initial appointment as a
2 local law enforcement officer, amending N.J.S.40A:14-122 and
3 supplementing chapter 14 of Title 40A of the New Jersey
4 Statutes.

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

8
9 1. N.J.S.40A:14-122 is amended to read as follows:
10 40A:14-122. General qualifications of members of police
11 department and force; temporary appointments; absences from duty.

12 Except as otherwise provided by law, no person shall be
13 appointed as a member of the police department and force, unless
14 the person:

15 (1) is a citizen of the United States;

16 (2) is sound in body and of good health sufficient to satisfy the
17 board of trustees of the police and firemen's retirement system of
18 New Jersey as to his eligibility for membership in the retirement
19 system;

20 (3) is able to read, write and speak the English language well
21 and intelligently;

22 (4) is of good moral character, and has not been convicted of
23 any criminal offense involving moral turpitude; and

24 (5) has either:

25 (a) successfully earned, at a minimum, an associate degree; or

26 (b) has at least two years of law enforcement experience.

27 In addition to the requirements set forth under current law, a
28 municipality operating under the provisions of Title 11A, the Civil
29 Service Act, may establish minimum education requirements for a
30 person to be eligible for appointment as a member of the police
31 department and force.

32 Nothing in this section shall prohibit a governing body from
33 establishing minimum requirements which are more stringent than
34 those set forth in this section.

35 The appointing body, officer or officers of the municipality when
36 authorized so to do, may employ such officers and other personnel
37 for said police department and force as temporary employees in
38 emergencies, or for certain specified parts of the year, as needed.

39 Except as otherwise provided by law, any permanent member or
40 officer of such police department and force who shall be absent
41 from duty without just cause or leave of absence, for a continuous
42 period of **【5】** five days, shall cease to be a member of such police
43 department and force.

44 (cf: P.L.1971, c.443, s.4)

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.

Under the bill, county and municipal police officers also would be required to have either, at a minimum, an associate degree or at least two years of law enforcement experience. The bill also, in addition to the requirements set forth under current law, authorizes a municipality operating under the provisions of the Civil Service Act to establish minimum education requirements for a person to be

1 eligible for appointment as a member of the police department and
2 force.

3 The bill also permits counties and municipalities to adopt more
4 stringent educational standards for initial appointment to the police
5 department.