

ASSEMBLY, No. 5095

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Requires Attorney General to establish youth community policing program policy for State and local law enforcement agencies.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing a youth community policing program and
2 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. The Attorney General shall develop a model policy
8 establishing a youth community policing program for law
9 enforcement agencies in order to strengthen community relations
10 and create more opportunities for positive interactions between the
11 law enforcement community and children in this State.

12 b. At a minimum, the policy shall provide:

13 (1) a description of the types of activities that would constitute
14 youth community policing activities;

15 (2) a requirement that participation in youth community policing
16 activities be mandatory for law enforcement officers employed by a
17 law enforcement agency, with an annual minimum number of
18 volunteer hours to be established by the Attorney General;

19 (3) that the time spent participating in mandatory youth
20 community policing activities shall be accredited to continuing
21 education credits, in a manner to be determined by the Attorney
22 General; and

23 (4) that law enforcement officers shall receive paid time off,
24 separate from any other accrued leave time, in order to satisfy the
25 mandatory minimum number of volunteer hours.

26 c. Each law enforcement agency in the State shall adopt the
27 policy established by the Attorney General pursuant to subsection a.
28 of this section or a policy that is substantially identical. An entity
29 adopting its own policy shall make application in a manner to be
30 determined by the Attorney General for approval of the policy prior
31 to adoption.

32 d. To effectuate the implementation of a youth community
33 policing program, each law enforcement agency in the State shall be
34 permitted to use agency resources to create a paid volunteer
35 coordinator position to increase and oversee youth engagement
36 activities in the surrounding community.

37 e. As used in this section:

38 (1) "law enforcement agency" means a State, county, and
39 municipal law enforcement department in the State, and a campus
40 police department at an institution of higher education in the State
41 that appoints police officers pursuant to P.L.1970, c.211 (C.18A:6-
42 4.2 et seq.); and

43 (2) "law enforcement officer" means a person employed by a
44 law enforcement agency whose public duties include the power to
45 act as an officer for the detection, apprehension, arrest, and
46 conviction of offenders against the laws of this State.

1 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
2 following the date of enactment, except that the Attorney General
3 may take any anticipatory action in advance as shall be necessary
4 for the implementation of this act.

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STATEMENT

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9 This bill requires the Attorney General to develop a model policy
10 establishing a youth community policing program for law
11 enforcement agencies in order to strengthen community relations
12 and create more opportunities for positive interactions between the
13 law enforcement community and children in this State.

14 The bill provides that at a minimum, the policy would be
15 required to include:

16 (1) a description of the types of activities that would constitute
17 youth community policing activities;

18 (2) that participation in youth community policing activities
19 would be mandatory for law enforcement officers employed by a
20 law enforcement agency, with an annual minimum number of
21 volunteer hours to be established by the Attorney General;

22 (3) that the time spent participating in mandatory youth
23 community policing activities would be accredited to continuing
24 education credits, in a manner to be determined by the Attorney
25 General; and

26 (4) that law enforcement officers would receive paid time off,
27 separate from any other accrued leave time, in order to satisfy the
28 mandatory minimum number of volunteer hours.

29 Under the bill, each law enforcement agency in the State would
30 be required to adopt the policy established by the Attorney General
31 or a policy that is substantially identical. An entity adopting its own
32 policy would be required to make application in a manner to be
33 determined by the Attorney General for approval of the policy prior
34 to adoption.

35 The bill additionally provides that to effectuate the
36 implementation of a youth community policing program, each law
37 enforcement agency in the State would be permitted to use agency
38 resources to create a paid volunteer coordinator position to increase
39 and oversee youth engagement activities in the surrounding
40 community.