

ASSEMBLY, No. 5772

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 18, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman BRIAN BERGEN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Requires law enforcement officers in State to annually pass physical fitness examination; appropriates \$500,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning law enforcement officer physical fitness
2 requirements, supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes,
3 and making an appropriation.

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

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8 1. Each law enforcement officer in the State who is statutorily
9 empowered to act for the detection, investigation, arrest, conviction,
10 detention, or rehabilitation of persons violating the criminal laws of
11 this State and statutorily required to successfully complete a
12 training course approved by, or certified as being substantially
13 equivalent to such an approved course, by the Police Training
14 Commission pursuant to P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.) shall
15 be required to annually pass a physical fitness examination
16 administered pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.)
17 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

18
19 2. a. The Police Training Commission in the Department of
20 Law and Public Safety, in consultation with the Attorney General
21 and the Director of the Division of Criminal Justice in the
22 Department of Law and Public Safety, shall develop and approve
23 minimum physical fitness testing standards to be administered
24 annually, in accordance with an officer's age and gender, as
25 required pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
26 before the Legislature as this bill). The physical fitness testing
27 standards shall be reviewed at least every two years and modified
28 from time to time as need may require.

29 b. The Police Training Commission shall issue a
30 recommendation to the employer of any law enforcement officer
31 who fails the annual physical fitness examination regarding
32 disciplinary actions to be taken against the officer including, but not
33 limited to, demotion or termination.

34 c. The Police Training Commission shall adopt rules and
35 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
36 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of
37 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

38
39 3. There is appropriated \$500,000 from the General Fund to the
40 Police Training Commission in the Department of Law and Public
41 Safety to effectuate the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.)
42 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

43
44 4. Sections 2 and 3 of this act shall take effect immediately and
45 section 1 of this act shall take effect on the first day of the 13th
46 month next following the date of enactment.

STATEMENT

This bill requires law enforcement officers in this State to annually pass a physical fitness examination.

Law enforcement officers in this State currently are required to meet certain physical fitness testing requirements as part of the Police Training Commission's basic training. A trainee who does not meet the minimum physical fitness testing requirements is dismissed from the training academy.

This bill requires all full-time, part-time, permanent, and temporary law enforcement officers in the State who are empowered to enforce, act for the detection, investigation, arrest, conviction, and detention of the State's criminal laws, and who are required to complete a training course approved by the Police Training Commission to annually pass a physical fitness examination.

Under the bill, the Police Training Commission, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Director of the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety, is required to develop and approve, in accordance with an officer's age and gender, minimum physical fitness testing standards for the annual exam. These physical conditioning testing standards are to be reviewed at least every two years and modified as necessary.

The provisions of the bill also require the Police Training Commission to issue a recommendation to the employer of any officer who fails the annual physical fitness examination regarding disciplinary actions to be taken against the officer including, but not limited to, demotion or termination. The Police Training Commission also is required to adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of the bill which also shall address the consequences of an officer's failure to pass a physical fitness exam including, but not limited to, demotion or termination.

Finally, the bill appropriates \$500,000 from the General Fund to the Police Training Commission to effectuate the provisions of the bill.