

ASSEMBLY, No. 5791

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 1, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain background investigation for candidate for law enforcement position.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning law enforcement officers and supplementing
2 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. Notwithstanding any provisions of law to the contrary
8 and in addition to any background check currently conducted by a
9 law enforcement agency, every candidate for a law enforcement
10 position with a State, county, or municipal law enforcement agency
11 shall undergo a background investigation which shall include, but
12 not be limited to, a comprehensive evaluation of the following
13 areas:

14 (1) review of personal data and citizenship information,
15 including an applicant's birth certificate, voter registration,
16 citizenship or naturalization papers, and the presence of tattoos,
17 brands, or other body art, dermal piercing and scarification;

18 (2) interviews of an applicant's spouse, partner, dependents,
19 relatives, associates, and friends;

20 (3) review of an applicant's current and past residences,
21 temporary or permanent, and interviews with landlords, roommates,
22 and neighbors;

23 (4) review of an applicant's high school and college grades,
24 achievements, extracurricular activities and programs, history of
25 absenteeism or tardiness, and disciplinary history;

26 (5) review of an applicant's military service, if any, including
27 branch of service, service records, and discharge;

28 (6) review of an applicant's employment and work history,
29 including interviews of current and former employers, discipline,
30 terminations, and unemployment records;

31 (7) review of an applicant's financial status, including assets,
32 debts, reported income, liens, civil judgment, and liabilities;

33 (8) review of an applicant's fraternal, societal, and workplace
34 affiliations such as clubs, social networking sites, fraternities,
35 sororities, and charitable and volunteer organizations;

36 (9) review of an applicant's adult and juvenile criminal history
37 including arrests, convictions, or pretrial intervention for State,
38 county, or local crimes or other offenses, whether or not expunged;
39 and

40 (10) review of an applicant's motor vehicle history, including
41 accidents, driving records, summonses, surcharges, license
42 revocations, failures to appear in court, warrants, vehicle ownership
43 information, and insurance information.

44 b. An applicant who demonstrates derogatory conduct that
45 conflicts with the expectations of a law enforcement position or
46 intentionally provides false information shall be disqualified from
47 employment with the law enforcement agency.

1 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month
2 after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill requires a background investigation to be conducted for
7 every candidate for a law enforcement position with a State, county,
8 or municipal law enforcement agency.

9 Under the provisions of this bill in addition to any background
10 check currently conducted by a law enforcement agency, every
11 candidate for a law enforcement position with a State, county, or
12 municipal law enforcement agency is required to undergo a
13 background investigation which is to include, but not be limited to,
14 a comprehensive evaluation of the following areas:

15 1) review of personal data and citizenship information, including
16 an applicant's birth certificate, voter registration, citizenship or
17 naturalization papers, and the presence of tattoos, brands, or other
18 body art, dermal piercing and scarification;

19 2) interviews of an applicant's spouse, partner, dependents,
20 relatives, associates, and friends;

21 3) review of an applicant's current and past residences,
22 temporary or permanent, and interviews with landlords, roommates,
23 and neighbors;

24 4) review of an applicant's high school and college grades,
25 achievements, extracurricular activities and programs, history of
26 absenteeism or tardiness, and disciplinary history;

27 5) review of an applicant's military service, if any, including
28 branch of service, service records, and discharge;

29 6) review of an applicant's employment and work history,
30 including interviews of current and former employers, discipline,
31 terminations, and unemployment records;

32 7) review of an applicant's financial status, including assets,
33 debts, reported income, liens, civil judgment, and liabilities;

34 8) review of an applicant's fraternal, societal, and workplace
35 affiliations such as clubs, social networking sites, fraternities,
36 sororities, and charitable and volunteer organizations;

37 9) review of an applicant's adult and juvenile criminal history
38 including arrests, convictions, or pretrial intervention for State,
39 county, or local crimes or other offenses, whether or not expunged;
40 and

41 10) review of an applicant's motor vehicle history, including
42 accidents, driving records, summonses, surcharges, license
43 revocations, failures to appear in court, warrants, vehicle ownership
44 information, and insurance information.

45 In addition, the bill provides that an applicant who demonstrates
46 derogatory conduct that conflicts with the expectations of a law
47 enforcement position or intentionally provides false information is
48 to be disqualified from employment with the law enforcement
49 agency.