

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 61

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ERIK PETERSON

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Attorney General to require training for law enforcement regarding the developmentally disabled and persons with behavioral health crises.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the Attorney General to
2 establish for all New Jersey law enforcement officers minimum
3 in-service training requirements regarding dealing with the
4 developmentally disabled and persons having a behavioral health
5 crisis.
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7 **WHEREAS**, The State relies on its law enforcement officers to keep
8 neighborhoods safe, enforce the laws, and respond in times of
9 crises; and
10 **WHEREAS**, While in the course of their duties, law enforcement
11 officers encounter residents who have developmental disabilities or
12 who may be having a behavioral health crisis; and
13 **WHEREAS**, In accordance with current statutory law, the Police
14 Training Commission's basic training requirements include
15 developmental disabilities awareness training, and the basic training
16 also includes guidance for law enforcement officers in responding
17 to individuals with special needs, as well as crisis intervention
18 training; and
19 **WHEREAS**, Although law enforcement officers receive basic training
20 in developmental disabilities and behavioral health issues, there
21 does not appear to be Statewide mandatory in-service training
22 requirements; and
23 **WHEREAS**, Additional training, although not mandatory, is available
24 in certain police training academies Statewide; and
25 **WHEREAS**, The Attorney General, in cooperation with local, county,
26 and State law enforcement agencies, should establish, and
27 promulgate guidelines concerning, in-service training for law
28 enforcement regarding the developmentally disabled population and
29 persons in a behavioral health crisis; and
30 **WHEREAS**, A minimum of two hours of training every three years has
31 been beneficial in those departments that currently incorporate this
32 in-service training requirement; and
33 **WHEREAS**, Currently, NJLearn offers programs which are free to first
34 responders and emergency personnel that may be incorporated into
35 basic training and in-service hours; and
36 **WHEREAS**, The Attorney General should establish for all New Jersey
37 law enforcement officers a minimum of two hours of in-service
38 training every three years regarding dealing with the
39 developmentally disabled and persons in a behavioral health crisis;
40 now, therefore,
41
42 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
43 *Jersey:*
44
45 1. This House urges the Attorney General to establish in-
46 service training requirements regarding dealing with the
47 developmentally disabled and persons in a behavioral health crisis

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1 for all New Jersey law enforcement officers to expand their
2 awareness of the needs of these populations.

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4 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
5 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
6 Governor of this State, the New Jersey Attorney General, and to
7 every member of Congress elected from this State.

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10 **STATEMENT**

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12 This Assembly Resolution urges the Attorney General to
13 establish in-service training requirements for all New Jersey law
14 enforcement officers regarding dealing with individuals who are
15 developmentally disabled or experiencing a behavioral health crisis.
16 The purpose of this training is to expand law enforcement's
17 awareness of the needs of persons who are developmentally
18 disabled or who have behavioral health issues.

19 The resolution encourages the Attorney General, in cooperation
20 with local, county, and State law enforcement agencies, to establish
21 the training and promulgate guidelines. Specifically, the resolution
22 notes that a minimum of two hours of training every three years has
23 been beneficial in those departments that currently incorporate this
24 in-service training requirement.

25 The resolution suggests NJLearn as a possible source of this
26 training. Currently, NJLearn offers programs which are free to first
27 responders and emergency personnel that may be incorporated into
28 in-service training for law enforcement officers.