

SENATE, No. 1621

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES W. HOLZAPFEL

District 10 (Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes training for law enforcement officers interacting with pregnant women.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning certain law enforcement interactions 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 Department of Law and Public Safety shall develop
8 or identify training course materials and an online tutorial for law
9 enforcement officers concerning interaction with any pregnant
10 woman who is in labor or preparing for delivery, and any person
11 accompanying her if appropriate. The training shall include:

12 (1) reviewing at the time of a motor vehicle stop any required
13 documentation, such as a driver's license, registration, and proof of
14 insurance, in the most efficient manner;

15 (2) assessing a motor vehicle stop to determine if emergency
16 responders are to be requested, whether for assistance at the scene
17 or for transport; and

18 (3) preparing for delivery of a baby or another childbirth
19 emergency.

20 b. The Department of Law and Public Safety shall cause the
21 training course materials and online tutorial developed or identified
22 pursuant to subsection a. of this section to be made available to
23 every State, county, and municipal law enforcement department in
24 the State and to each campus police department at an institution of
25 higher education in the State that appoints police officers pursuant
26 to P.L.1970, c.211 (C.18A:6-4.2 et seq.) for use in providing officer
27 training and information.

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29 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
30 next following enactment.

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STATEMENT

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35 This bill requires the Department of Law and Public Safety to
36 develop or identify training course materials and an online tutorial
37 for law enforcement officers concerning interaction with any
38 pregnant woman who is in labor or preparing for delivery, and any
39 person who might be accompanying her.

40 The training would include: (1) reviewing at the time of a vehicle
41 stop any required documentation, such as a driver's license,
42 registration, and proof of insurance, in the most efficient manner;
43 (2) assessing a vehicle stop to determine if emergency responders
44 are to be requested, whether for assistance at the scene or for
45 transport; and (3) preparing for delivery of a baby or another
46 childbirth emergency.

47 Under the bill, the department would develop or identify the
48 training course materials and online tutorial, and make them

1 available for use in providing officer training and information to
2 every State, county, and municipal law enforcement department, as
3 well as any campus police department at an institution of higher
4 education.

5 Recently, a Howell Police Department officer pulled over and
6 issued a citation to a driver for speeding. The driver noted that his
7 passenger was in labor and the two were driving to the hospital for
8 delivery of their baby. While speeding is risky, even in cases of
9 medical emergencies, such as labor and childbirth, it is essential to
10 consider roadway safety and law enforcement officers have a duty
11 to protect all members of the public. There are other recent
12 instances of police officers unexpectedly assisting in the delivery of
13 babies with minimal time to react. By providing law enforcement
14 officers with training for handling these variable and unpredictable
15 situations, officers will be better equipped to ensure the safety of all
16 the citizens of this State.