

SENATE, No. 2581

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 15, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Requires police training for interactions with persons who may have behavioral health issues.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/6/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning police training and supplementing Title 52 of the
2 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. (New section) a. The Department of Law and Public
8 Safety, in collaboration with the Department of Human Services,
9 shall adopt or endorse a training curriculum for law enforcement
10 officers concerning police interactions with persons with behavioral
11 health issues, including persons who may have a mental illness,
12 substance use disorder, or co-occurring diagnosis of mental illness
13 and substance use disorder.

14 b. The curriculum shall include information on the recognition
15 of behavioral symptoms, as well as de-escalation and intervention
16 techniques. The curriculum shall include, but need not be limited to,
17 the following subjects:

18 (1) identification and recognition of different forms of behavioral
19 health disorders or issues;

20 (2) techniques for law enforcement to intervene with, interview,
21 de-escalate, and assess a person who may have a mental illness or
22 substance use disorder;

23 (3) issues relating to suicide and prevention techniques;

24 (4) recognition, identification, and understanding of the main
25 effects of commonly prescribed prescription medications used to
26 treat those who may have a behavioral health disorder;

27 (5) an overview of community resources and options for
28 treatment, including identification of local resources;

29 (6) methods of determining appropriate treatment options and
30 transfer thereto in collaboration with behavioral health entities; and

31 (7) standards utilized in this State for involuntary commitment to
32 inpatient and outpatient treatment.

33 c. The Attorney General may issue guidelines or directives
34 regarding the provision of this training to law enforcement officers.

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

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STATEMENT

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42 This bill requires the Department of Law and Public Safety, in
43 collaboration with the Department of Human Services, to establish a
44 training program for law enforcement officers to educate those most
45 likely to encounter persons in crisis about police interactions with
46 persons with behavioral health issues.

47 The training program curriculum under the bill is to include
48 information on identifying and recognizing different forms of

1 behavioral health disorders or issues; techniques for intervening
2 with, interviewing, de-escalating, and assessing a person who may
3 have such a disorder; issues relating to suicide and prevention
4 techniques; recognizing, identifying, and understanding the main
5 effects of commonly prescribed prescription medications used to
6 treat those who may have a behavioral health disorder; community
7 resources and options for treatment, including identification of local
8 resources; methods of determining appropriate treatment options;
9 and standards utilized in this State for involuntary commitment to
10 inpatient and outpatient treatment.

11 The Attorney General is authorized to issue guidelines or
12 directives governing the law enforcement training required by the
13 bill.