

SENATE, No. 2624

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 29, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes database containing information on traffic stops by certain law enforcement officers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the collection of data from traffic stops and
2 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. The Attorney General shall establish and maintain a
8 central, searchable database of information pertaining to traffic law
9 enforcement by State and local law enforcement officers.

10 b. Information contained within the database shall be subject to
11 potential disclosure under P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.),
12 known commonly as the open public records act.

13 c. The database shall be publicly available on the website of
14 the Department of Law and Public Safety.

15 d. The Attorney General may promulgate guidelines to
16 effectuate the provisions of this act.

17
18 2. All State and local police shall submit a quarterly report to
19 the Attorney General containing the following information which
20 shall be entered in the database established in section 1 of
21 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill):

22 a. The number of drivers stopped for routine traffic
23 enforcement by law enforcement officers, the officer making each
24 stop, the date each stop was made, the law enforcement agency of
25 the officer making each stop, and whether or not a citation or
26 warning was issued;

27 b. Identifying characteristics of the drivers stopped, including
28 the race or ethnicity, approximate age, and gender;

29 c. The alleged traffic violation that led to the stop;

30 d. Whether a search was instituted as a result of the stop;

31 e. Whether the vehicle, personal effects, driver, or passenger
32 were searched, and the race or ethnicity, approximate age, and
33 gender of each person searched;

34 f. Whether the search was conducted pursuant to consent,
35 probable cause, or a warrant, including the basis for the request for
36 consent, the circumstances establishing probable cause, or the basis
37 for the warrant;

38 g. Whether any contraband was found and the type and amount
39 of any such contraband;

40 h. Whether any written citation or any oral or written warning
41 was issued as a result of the stop;

42 i. Whether an arrest was made as a result of either the stop or
43 the search;

44 j. Whether any property was seized, with a description of that
45 property;

46 k. Whether the officers making the stop encountered any
47 physical resistance from the driver or a passenger;

1 l. Whether the officers making the stop engaged in the use of
2 force against the driver or a passenger for any reason;
3 m. Whether any injuries resulted from the stop;
4 n. Whether the circumstances surrounding the stop were the
5 subject of any investigation, and the results of that investigation;
6 o. The geographic location of the stop; if the officer making the
7 stop is a member of the New Jersey State Police, the location shall
8 be the field operation section, including troop and station; for all
9 other law enforcement officers, the location shall be the
10 municipality and county in which the stop was made.
11
12 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

17 This bill would require the Attorney General to establish a
18 public, searchable database of information pertaining to traffic law
19 enforcement by State and local law enforcement officers.

20 The information entered in the database will include the driver's
21 identifying characteristics, such as race or ethnicity, approximate
22 age, and gender and will pertain to all interactions with traffic law
23 enforcement, even those stops that result only in an oral warning.

24 The wide range of specific information contained within this
25 database will allow for increased public oversight of traffic law
26 enforcement practices by providing a tool to prevent pernicious
27 enforcement of these laws, including racial and gender profiling.