

SENATE, No. 2651

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL J. DOHERTY

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Permits Adjutant General to authorize members of NJ National Guard to carry firearm at recruiting centers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the carrying of firearms by members of the
2 New Jersey National Guard at recruiting centers and
3 supplementing P.L.1963, c.109 (C.38A:1-1).
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
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8 1. a. The Adjutant General of the Department of Military and
9 Veterans' Affairs may authorize one or more members of the New
10 Jersey National Guard assigned to each National Guard recruiting
11 center, while those members are actually on duty, or while those
12 members are traveling between places of duty, to carry a firearm in
13 a manner prescribed by the Adjutant General.

14 b. The Adjutant General shall ensure that any such member
15 receives appropriate training in the use of the weapon, including in
16 all laws applicable to the carrying and use of a weapon in New
17 Jersey. The Adjutant General shall adopt policies concerning the
18 security of the weapon when the member who is authorized is not
19 on duty.
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21 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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24 STATEMENT

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26 This bill permits the Adjutant General to authorize one or more
27 members of the New Jersey National Guard assigned to each
28 National Guard recruiting center, while those members are actually
29 on duty, or while those members are traveling between places of
30 duty, to carry an authorized weapon in a manner prescribed by the
31 Adjutant General. There may be one or more armed members of
32 the National Guard at each National Guard recruiting center. The
33 Adjutant General is to ensure that any such member receives
34 appropriate training in the use of the weapon, including all laws
35 applicable to the carrying and use of a weapon in New Jersey, and
36 adopt policies concerning the security of the weapon when the
37 member who is authorized is not on duty.

38 On Thursday, July 16, 2015, Mohammad Youssuf Abdulazeez
39 opened fire at a military recruiting center in Chattanooga,
40 Tennessee, and then moved to a U.S. Navy facility seven miles
41 away where he fatally shot four U.S. Marines, one U.S. Navy
42 Sailor, and wounded two others before dying by police gunfire.

43 This is not the first incident of its kind, however. In 2009, a
44 shooting at a military base in Fort Hood, Texas, left 13 people dead
45 and more than 30 others injured. Another shooting in April of 2014
46 at several locations on the Fort Hood military base resulted in the
47 deaths of five people, including the gunman, and fourteen injuries.

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1 States including Indiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas,
2 Utah, and Florida have made changes to permit guard members to
3 be armed in the wake of the shootings in Chattanooga. New Jersey
4 cannot allow its citizen soldiers to remain vulnerable to attack in
5 this way. This legislation will help better safeguard military
6 facilities and allow those who bravely defend this country and this
7 State to defend themselves. This legislation will implement
8 lifesaving security measures in light of this national tragedy.