

SENATE, No. 2857

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 27, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator NIA H. GILL
District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

The “New Jersey Law Enforcement Transparency Act of 2020.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the “New Jersey Law Enforcement
2 Transparency Act of 2020” and supplementing Title 52 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

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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 Superintendent of State Police and the chief of police
9 or other chief law enforcement officer of each State, county, and
10 municipal law enforcement agency shall implement a policy
11 requiring that every law enforcement officer acting in the
12 performance of the officer's duties while in uniform or exhibiting
13 evidence of authority make visible the following identification
14 while on-duty or serving the public as a law enforcement officer:

15 (1) the last name of the law enforcement officer;

16 (2) the name of the law enforcement agency employing the law
17 enforcement officer;

18 (3) a badge number or other identification number issued by the
19 employing law enforcement agency.

20 The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to detectives
21 and investigators while working in the role of an undercover agent
22 for a law enforcement agency.

23 b. The Superintendent of State Police and the chief of police or
24 other chief law enforcement officer of every State, county, and
25 municipal law enforcement agency shall implement a policy with
26 respect to the enforcement of subsection a. of this section.

27 c. The Superintendent of State Police and the chief of police or
28 other chief law enforcement officer of every State, county, and
29 municipal law enforcement agency shall annually collect and
30 submit to the Attorney General a report on the:

31 (1) number of instances in which a law enforcement officer did
32 not comply with the requirement under subsection a. of this section;
33 and

34 (2) the law enforcement agency that employed the officer.

35 d. The Attorney General shall adopt guidelines for the
36 enforcement of the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
37 before the Legislature as this bill).

38 e. For the purposes of this section:

39 "Law enforcement agency" means a department, division,
40 bureau, commission, board, or other authority of the State or of any
41 political subdivision thereof which employs law enforcement
42 officers.

43 "Law enforcement officer" means any person who is employed
44 as a permanent full-time member of a law enforcement agency and
45 is statutorily empowered to act as an officer for the detection,
46 apprehension, arrest, and conviction of offenders against the laws of
47 this State.

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

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STATEMENT

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7 This bill requires every law enforcement officer in this State to
8 make visible the officer's last name, name of the employing law
9 enforcement agency, and the officer's badge number while the
10 officer is on duty or serving the public.

11 The bill specifically requires the Superintendent of the Division
12 of State Police and the chief of police of every State, county, and
13 municipal law enforcement agency to implement a policy requiring
14 that every law enforcement officer acting in the performance of the
15 officer's duties while in uniform or exhibiting evidence of authority
16 make this information visible. The policies are to include an
17 enforcement mechanism.

18 Detectives and investigators who are working in the role of an
19 undercover agent are exempted from the provisions of the bill.

20 Law enforcement agencies are required by the bill to annually
21 collect data and submit to the Attorney General a report on the
22 number of instances in which a law enforcement officer did not
23 comply with the bill's requirements and the law enforcement
24 agency that employed the officer.

25 The bill requires the Attorney General to adopt guidelines for the
26 enforcement of the bill's provisions.