

SENATE, No. 3075

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Gill

SYNOPSIS

Establishes sexual violence liaison officer in Division of State Police and local police departments.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/10/2020)

1 AN ACT establishing sexual violence liaison officers in certain
2 police departments and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised
3 Statutes and Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. a. The Superintendent of State Police shall designate the
9 Station Intervention Officer as the sexual violence liaison officer
10 for each State Police station.

11 b. The sexual violence liaison officer shall:

12 (1) serve as the station's in-house expert on how to respond to
13 sexual violence cases;

14 (2) act as the primary point-of-contact for each local sexual
15 violence program and county Sexual Assault Response Team as
16 established pursuant section 6 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-54) to
17 coordinate an effective community response;

18 (3) when appropriately trained, provide in-house training on
19 sexual violence and support training implementation by the Victim
20 Services Unit;

21 (4) monitor the station's compliance with sexual violence best
22 practices as set forth in the statutory law and Attorney General
23 policies; and

24 (5) serve in any other capacity deemed appropriate by the
25 superintendent.

26 c. A sexual violence liaison officer shall complete specialized
27 sexual violence training as specified by the superintendent.

28 d. A regional investigator of the Victim Services Unit of the
29 Division of State Police shall:

30 (1) be a member of the Victim Services Unit, or its successor;

31 (2) complete specialized sexual violence training as specified by
32 the superintendent; and

33 (3) represent the station at county meetings of the Sexual
34 Assault Response Team.

35 e. A member of the Division of State Police shall be
36 disqualified from serving as a sexual violence liaison officer or
37 regional investigator of the Victim Services Unit if:

38 (1) the member has been the subject of an investigation
39 regarding sexual violence, sexual misconduct, domestic violence,
40 stalking, or sexual harassment; or

41 (2) a court has issued a protective or restraining order against
42 the member.

43 f. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the sexual assault
44 liaison officer from simultaneously serving as a domestic violence
45 liaison officer or Megan's Law resource officer.

46
47 2. a. The chief of police or other executive head of a
48 municipal police department and force established pursuant to the

1 provisions of N.J.S.40A:14-118 shall appoint a full-time sworn
2 officer of the department and force to serve as a sexual violence
3 liaison officer.

4 b. The sexual violence liaison officer shall:

5 (1) serve as the department and force in-house expert on how to
6 respond to sexual violence cases;

7 (2) act as the primary point-of-contact for each local sexual
8 violence program and county Sexual Assault Response Team as
9 established pursuant section 6 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-54) to
10 coordinate an effective community response;

11 (3) represent the department and force at county meetings of the
12 Sexual Assault Response Team;

13 (4) when appropriately trained, provide in-house training on
14 sexual violence;

15 (5) monitor the department and force's compliance with sexual
16 violence best practices as set forth in the statutory law and Attorney
17 General policies; and

18 (6) serve in any other capacity deemed appropriate by the chief
19 of police or other executive head of the department or force.

20 c. A sexual violence liaison officer shall complete specialized
21 sexual violence training as specified by the chief of police or other
22 executive head of the municipal police department and force.

23 d. An officer of the department or force shall be disqualified
24 from serving as a sexual violence liaison officer if:

25 (1) the officer has been the subject of an investigation regarding
26 sexual violence, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, stalking, or
27 sexual harassment; or

28 (2) a court has issued a protective or restraining order against
29 the officer.

30 e. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the sexual assault
31 liaison officer from simultaneously serving as a domestic violence
32 liaison officer or a Megan's Law resource officer.

33

34 3. a. The chief of police or other executive head of a county
35 police department and force established pursuant to the provisions
36 of N.J.S.40A:14-106 through N.J.S.40A:14-117 shall appoint a full-
37 time sworn officer of the department and force to serve as the
38 sexual violence liaison officer.

39 b. The sexual violence liaison officer shall:

40 (1) serve as the department and force in-house expert on how to
41 conduct sexual violence cases;

42 (2) act as the primary point-of-contact for each local sexual
43 violence program and county Sexual Assault Response Team as
44 established pursuant section 6 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-54) to
45 coordinate an effective community response;

46 (3) represent the department and force at county meetings of the
47 Sexual Assault Response Team;

- 1 (4) when appropriately trained, provide in-house training on
2 sexual violence;
- 3 (5) monitor the department and force's compliance with sexual
4 violence best practices as set forth in the statutory law and Attorney
5 General policies; and
- 6 (6) serve in any other capacity deemed appropriate by the chief
7 of police or other executive head of the department or force.
- 8 c. A sexual violence liaison officer shall complete specialized
9 sexual violence training as specified by the chief of police or other
10 executive head of the county police department and force.
- 11 d. An officer of the department or force shall be disqualified
12 from serving as a sexual violence liaison officer if:
- 13 (1) the officer has been the subject of an investigation regarding
14 sexual violence, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, stalking, or
15 sexual harassment; or
- 16 (2) a court has issued a protective or restraining order against
17 the officer.
- 18 e. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the sexual assault
19 liaison officer from simultaneously serving as a domestic violence
20 liaison officer or a Megan's Law resource officer.
- 21
- 22 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
23 next following enactment.
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25
26 STATEMENT

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28 This bill requires a sexual violence liaison officer to be
29 appointed to each State Police station and municipal and county
30 police department.

31 The bill specifically requires the Superintendent of State Police
32 to designate the Station Intervention Officer as the sexual violence
33 liaison officer for each State Police station. The chief of police of a
34 municipal or county police department, as appropriate, is to appoint
35 a full-time sworn member to serve as the sexual violence liaison.
36 The liaison for the State Police and for municipal and county police
37 departments is responsible for serving as the in-house expert on
38 how to conduct sexual violence cases; acting as the primary point-
39 of-contact for each local sexual violence program and county
40 Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to coordinate an effective
41 community response; when appropriately trained, providing in-
42 house training on sexual violence; monitoring the compliance with
43 sexual violence best practices set forth in the statutory law and
44 Attorney General policies; and serving in any other capacity
45 deemed appropriate by the superintendent or chief of police.

46 The liaison for municipal and county police departments also is
47 to represent the department at county meetings of the SART. The
48 bill provides for a regional investigator of the Victims Services Unit

1 in the Division of State Police to represent the State Police at these
2 meetings.

3 The State Police sexual violence liaison officer is required to be
4 a member of the Victim Services Unit of the division; a county or
5 municipal police officer liaison is required to be a full-time sworn
6 member of the department. The State Police member or department
7 police officer also is required to complete specialized sexual
8 violence training as specified by the superintendent or chief of
9 police, as applicable.

10 A State Police member or police officer is disqualified from
11 serving as a sexual violence liaison officer if the member or officer
12 has been the subject of an investigation regarding sexual violence,
13 sexual misconduct, domestic violence, stalking, or sexual
14 harassment; or if a court has issued a protective or restraining order
15 against the member or officer.

16 The bill authorizes a sexual assault liaison officer to
17 simultaneously serve as a domestic violence liaison officer and
18 Megan's Law resource officer.

19 According to the sponsor, having an officer specially trained in
20 the handling of sexual violence cases at each police department will
21 strengthen law enforcement's overall response to survivors of these
22 crimes. Working with survivors of these uniquely traumatic acts
23 requires a significant amount of specialized training and expertise
24 that extends beyond the current training requirement. The creation
25 of a Sexual Violence Liaison Officer (SVLO) will ensure each
26 department has an in-house resource that can establish departmental
27 best practices and ensure departmental compliance with current and
28 future law and policy requirements as they pertain to law
29 enforcement's response to survivors of sexual violence.