

ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 207

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 8, 2010

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 207.

Assembly Bill No. 207 adds the county sheriff to the law enforcement agencies that are authorized to hire law enforcement officers that have been laid off by other law enforcement agencies for reasons of economy, without having to go through any Civil Service list of eligible employees.

Under current law, county and municipal police forces are authorized to hire laid off law enforcement officers without utilizing any Civil Service lists, provided that the laid off officer was in good standing as an employee at the time of the lay off and had satisfactorily completed a working test period.

This bill amends the existing law to add the county sheriff to the agencies that are statutorily authorized to hire laid off law enforcement officers.

The bill also adds a new section of law to authorize the appointing authority of each county correctional facility to hire county corrections officers that have been laid off by other county correctional facilities without having to go through any Civil Service list of eligible employees. The authority to hire laid off county corrections officers has to be extended under a separate section of law since their training requirements and law enforcement experiences are distinctly different from those of sheriff's officers and county and municipal police officers. Because of these differences, this bill also clarifies that the Civil Service Commission may promulgate two separate reemployment lists: one for law enforcement officers and one for corrections officers. Having two separate lists allows for the commission to choose the person with the appropriate training for the position being filled.

The bill further clarifies that sheriff's officers are excluded from the bill's provisions.

County sheriffs are authorized by law to appoint up to 15 percent of the total number of sheriff's officers employed by the sheriff to the position of sheriff's investigator. These sheriff's investigators serve at the pleasure of the appointing sheriff and are specifically included in the unclassified service of the civil service.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2010-2011 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.