

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1841

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 27, 2010

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1841.

This bill clarifies that investigators in the Department of Corrections are police officers and renames these officers “correctional police investigators” under the State’s civil service system.

Under current law, Department of Corrections investigators are authorized to act as officers to detect, apprehend, arrest, and convict offenders who violate the law. They receive the same basic training as corrections officers, as well as firearms training approved by the Police Training Commission, but are additionally required to complete a basic investigations course through the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

These investigators perform the same basic functions as local police officers. They conduct administrative and criminal investigations of inmates in State correctional facilities, correctional staff, contractors, volunteers, and visitors. They investigate criminal activity initiated within these correctional facilities, help protect the public from organized crime and street gangs, and often work cooperatively with other police agencies.

According to the sponsor’s statement, these correctional police investigators should be recognized as the police officers that they are. Moreover, renaming them under the civil service system may make them eligible for additional law enforcement grants.