

ASSEMBLY, No. 2722

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI
District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Verrelli and Assemblywoman Murphy

SYNOPSIS

Requires Commissioner of Corrections to institute 30-minute shift overlap in State correctional facilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/13/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning shift overlap in State correctional facilities and
2 supplementing chapter 1B of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. In addition to the duties of the commissioner set forth in
8 section 6 of P.L.1976, c.98 (C.30:1B-6), the commissioner shall
9 institute in each State correctional facility a shift overlap of 30
10 minutes for the purpose of information dissemination between
11 corrections officers beginning and ending their shifts.

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13 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
14 after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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19 This bill requires the Commissioner of Corrections to institute a
20 30-minute shift overlap in each of the 13 correctional facilities in
21 this State for the purpose of information dissemination between
22 corrections officers beginning and ending their shifts.

23 Under the program of shift overlap established in the bill, a
24 corrections officer whose shift has ended would be required to
25 remain at his or her post for 30 minutes after the end of the shift to
26 report what happened during that shift to the incoming officer.

27 Shift overlap enhances the safety and well-being of the officers
28 and inmates in correctional facilities by allowing for the sharing of
29 information between incoming and outgoing officers, particularly
30 on issues such as gang activities and contraband.

31 According to the Assembly Prison Gang Violence Task Force
32 final report, issued December 12, 2006, the Department of
33 Corrections historically provided for shift overlap periods of up to
34 30 minutes, but gradually reduced these periods until they were
35 ultimately phased out altogether due to budget constraints.

36 According to the sponsor, this has resulted in increased danger to
37 inmates and corrections officers, increased use of institutional
38 lockups and search details, and decreased morale among corrections
39 officers.