

ASSEMBLY, No. 3828

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ADAM J. TALIAFERRO

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Assemblyman THOMAS P. GIBLIN

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Provides for enhanced benefits for certain firefighters, corrections officers, and county police officers enrolled in PERS.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/29/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning retirement benefits for certain firefighters,
2 corrections officers, and county police officers enrolled in the
3 Public Employees' Retirement System, amending and
4 supplementing P.L.1955, c.257 (C.43:15A-97 et seq.).
5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:
8

9 1. Section 1 of P.L1955, c. 257 (C. 43:15A-97) is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 1. "Law enforcement officer" shall mean any permanent and
12 full-time employee of the State of New Jersey holding one of the
13 following titles: motor vehicles officer, motor vehicles sergeant,
14 motor vehicles lieutenant, motor vehicles captain, assistant chief,
15 bureau of enforcement, and chief, bureau of enforcement in the
16 Division of Motor Vehicles, and highway patrol officer, sergeant
17 highway patrol bureau, lieutenant highway patrol bureau, captain
18 highway patrol bureau, assistant chief highway patrol bureau, chief
19 highway patrol bureau in the Division of State Police, and
20 inspector, investigator, and administrative inspector in the Division
21 of Alcoholic Beverage Control, and inspector recruit alcoholic
22 beverage control, inspector alcoholic beverage control, senior
23 inspector alcoholic beverage control, principal inspector alcoholic
24 beverage control, supervising inspector alcoholic beverage control
25 in the Division of State Police, and conservation officer, assistant
26 district conservation officer and district conservation officer in the
27 Division of Fish and Game, and assistant chief marine police and
28 senior marine patrolman in the Division of Resource Development,
29 and marine police officer, senior marine police officer, principal
30 marine police officer in the Division of State Police, and inspector,
31 officer, senior inspector, and principal inspector in the Division of
32 Shell Fisheries, any permanent and full-time active county
33 detective, lieutenant of county detectives, captain of county
34 detectives, chief of county detectives, and county investigator in the
35 offices of the county prosecutors, and sheriff's officer, sergeant
36 sheriff's officer, lieutenant sheriff's officer, captain sheriff's officer,
37 chief sheriff's officer, and sheriff's investigator in the offices of the
38 county sheriffs and any patrolman or other police officer of the
39 Board of Commissioners of the Palisades Interstate Park appointed
40 pursuant to R.S. 32:14-21. The term shall also mean county
41 corrections officer, county corrections sergeant, county corrections
42 lieutenant, county corrections captain, and investigator in a county
43 department of corrections, and officer, detective, sergeant,
44 lieutenant, and captain of a county police department. The term
45 shall also mean any permanent and fulltime firefighter employed by

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 the State, a county, fire district, or a municipality, or agency
2 thereof.

3 If the Prison Officers' Pension Fund is terminated as provided in
4 section 10 hereof, "law enforcement officer" shall also mean any
5 permanent and full-time active employee of the State of New Jersey
6 holding the title of correction officer, correction sergeant,
7 correction lieutenant, correction captain or deputy keeper in the
8 Division of Correction and Parole, or any member of the Prison
9 Officers' Pension Fund on the date of such termination.
10 (cf: P.L.1985, c.262, s.1)

11
12 2. (New section) A county corrections officer, county
13 corrections sergeant, county corrections lieutenant, county
14 corrections captain, and an investigator in a county department of
15 corrections, and an officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, and
16 captain of a county police department, and a permanent and fulltime
17 firefighter employed on the effective date by the State, a county,
18 fire district, or a municipality, or agency thereof, who was enrolled
19 in the Public Employees' Retirement System before the effective
20 date of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall
21 be enrolled as a participant in the law enforcement officer category
22 of the system within 90 days of that effective date, unless the
23 member signs a waiver of participation within 60 days of receiving
24 the notification of eligibility for participation in that category. A
25 member who signs the waiver shall remain enrolled as a non-law
26 enforcement officer in the regular system and the member shall not
27 be subject to compulsory retirement as provided in section 3 of
28 P.L.1955, c.257 (C.43:15A-99).

29 Any member who is enrolled as a participant of the law
30 enforcement officer category of the system in accordance with this
31 section shall be eligible for all the benefits and shall be subject to
32 all the requirements set forth in P.L.1955, c.257 (C.43:15A-97 et
33 seq.) from the date the member is made a participant. All service
34 credit in the regular system in a position eligible for participation in
35 the category shall be considered service credit as a law enforcement
36 officer in that category when the member is made a participant of
37 the category.

38
39 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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42 STATEMENT

43
44 A law enacted in 1955 established the law enforcement officer
45 (LEO) category as a special group of the Public Employees'
46 Retirement System (PERS). The members of the LEO group are
47 eligible for enhanced retirement benefits not available to regular
48 PERS members.

1 Under current law, the category of individuals authorized to
2 participate as LEO members is limited and is specifically defined in
3 the law by the title of the eligible position. An individual who does
4 not meet the age or medical requirements for entry into the Police
5 and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS) as a result of
6 employment in a title specifically named in that law is eligible to
7 participate in the LEO category or as a regular member of the
8 PERS. An individual employed in an eligible job title who meets
9 the enrollment criteria is enrolled in the LEO category of PERS
10 membership, unless the member specifically signs a waiver. A
11 LEO-eligible individual who signs the waiver is enrolled as a non-
12 law enforcement officer in the regular PERS retirement system;
13 however, any member holding a LEO-eligible title is subject to the
14 mandatory retirement provision of the current law.

15 This bill provides that a county corrections officer, county
16 corrections sergeant, county corrections lieutenant, county
17 corrections captain, and an investigator in a county department of
18 corrections, and an officer, detective, sergeant, lieutenant, and
19 captain of a county police department, and any permanent and
20 fulltime firefighter employed by the State, a county, fire district, or
21 a municipality, or agency thereof, who is enrolled in the PERS
22 before or after the effective date of this bill will be enrolled in the
23 law enforcement officer category of the PERS, unless the member
24 signs a waiver of participation. Upon enrollment in the law
25 enforcement officer category, these members will be eligible for the
26 enhanced benefits provided to LEO group members.