

ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1447

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 7, 1996

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 1447 with committee amendments.

Assembly Bill No. 1447 amends section 4 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-69) and supplements chapter 4 of Title 11A of the New Jersey Statutes to permit individuals who are seeking employment as law enforcement officers to take the statutorily required Police Training Commission course before they are hired. Under current law (section 4 of P.L.1961, c.56; C.52:17B-69), only individuals who have already been hired by local governmental units may be admitted to police training courses offered by schools approved and authorized by the commission.

Under the provisions of the bill, an individual who is interested in becoming a police officer would be permitted to take police training courses if that person (1) meets the statutory qualifications for police officer and (2) applies to and is accepted by the Police Training Commission for admission to a training course. The cost of the training is to be paid by the student.

The bill also directs the Commissioner of Personnel to prepare, at the request of a local governmental unit seeking candidates for police positions, a list of eligible individuals who have successfully completed the statutory police training requirements. Local governmental units that are operating under the provisions of Title 11A of the New Jersey Statutes (Civil Service) would be permitted to select and appoint candidates from that list. The bill does not require an appointing local governmental unit to reimburse an individual it hires for the costs of their police training. It does, however, permit these local units to reimburse their appointees for all or part of those costs, should it decide to do so.

The committee amendments, which were adopted at the request of the Attorney General, incorporate clarifying language.