

ASSEMBLY, No. 2539

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 5, 1996

By Assemblymen COTTRELL, MALONE, Wolfe, Moran,
Connors and Holzapfel

1 AN ACT concerning the use of bicycles by law enforcement officers
2 and supplementing chapter 4 of Title 39 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. Provisions of this chapter governing the operation of a bicycle
8 shall not apply to a bicycle operated by a law enforcement officer in
9 the performance of duty.

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11 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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14 STATEMENT

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16 New Jersey law recognizes that effective law enforcement requires
17 at times that police vehicles be driven in an unconventional manner.
18 For that reason, police officers operating vehicles while on duty are
19 exempt from certain traffic laws. However, no such exclusion exists
20 for the growing number of police officers who use bicycles, rather than
21 cars, in the line of duty.

22 This bill would exempt these officers from the laws governing the
23 operation of bicycles on the roadways of this State. To exploit the
24 full potential of the bicycle as a law enforcement tool, these officers
25 at times ride against traffic, forgo the use of headlights at night or
26 otherwise operate their bicycles in a manner that would be unlawful
27 under ordinary circumstances. Should a mishap occur in such
28 situations, the exemption provided by this bill may offer some
29 protection against law suits to bicycle police officers and their
30 municipalities.

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34 Exempts police on duty from bicycle traffic laws.