

ASSEMBLY, No. 2974

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 1997

By Assemblymen **ROBERTS, BLEE, Kramer, Dalton, Impreveduto, Assemblywoman Turner, Assemblyman Garcia, Assemblywoman Quigley, Assemblymen Gusciora, Romano and Assemblywoman Cruz-Perez**

1 AN ACT to provide body armor for certain corrections officers and
2 supplementing chapter 17B of Title 52 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. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall provide for the
8 issuance of personal protective body armor to all corrections officers.

9 b. To facilitate the timely issuance of this body armor, the
10 commissioner shall establish a distribution schedule which provides for
11 the distribution of protective body armor to every State corrections
12 officer within nine months of the effective date of this act. In
13 establishing that distribution schedule, the commissioner may give first
14 priority to corrections officers assigned inmate supervision and control
15 responsibilities in maximum security correctional facilities and second
16 priority to those officers assigned inmate supervision and control
17 responsibilities in medium security correctional facilities.

18 c. Corrections officers hired after the initial distribution of personal
19 protective body armor authorized in this section shall be issued such
20 armor prior to being assigned to a correctional facility.

21 d. On and after the first day of the 13th month following the
22 effective date of this act, no State corrections officer shall be assigned
23 any duties or responsibilities in any State correctional facility unless
24 that officer has been issued personal protective body armor.

25 e. As used in this section "personal protective body armor" means
26 a puncture resistant body vest, individually fitted to the particular
27 corrections officer, that is designed to provide thrust, slash and
28 penetration protection. At a minimum, the vest shall be capable of
29 withstanding the following penetrations (1) an awl thrust at 39 foot-
30 pounds; (2) an ice pick thrust at 40 foot-pounds; and (3) a boning
31 knife thrust at 10 foot-pounds.

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33 2. Replacements for the initial personal protective body armor
34 distributed to State corrections officers pursuant to the provisions of

1 this act shall be provided from grant moneys made available for that
2 purpose from the "Body Armor Replacement" fund established
3 pursuant to PL. , c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as
4 Assembly Bill No. 1856 of 1996) and shall be distributed in
5 accordance with the schedule established therefor by the Attorney
6 General.

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8 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department
9 of Corrections \$2,000,000 to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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11 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

12 13 14 STATEMENT

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16 This bill provides for the initial issuance of personal protective body
17 armor to all State corrections officers.

18 Under the provisions of the bill, the Commissioner of Corrections
19 is to distribute personal protective body armor to all State corrections
20 officers within nine months of the effective date of the bill. In
21 establishing the distribution schedule for this body armor, the
22 commissioner may give first issuance priority to corrections officers
23 assigned inmate supervision and control responsibilities in maximum
24 security correctional facilities and second priority to those officers
25 assigned inmate supervision and control responsibilities in medium
26 security correctional facilities.

27 The bill further provides that one year after the effective date of the
28 bill, no State corrections officer may be assigned any duties or
29 responsibilities in any State correctional facility unless that officer has
30 been issued personal protective body armor.

31 Corrections officers hired after the initial distribution of body armor
32 pursuant to this bill are required to be issued such armor before being
33 assigned to a correctional facility.

34 Replacement of this body armor will be governed by the availability
35 of grant moneys and the distribution schedule developed under the
36 provisions of the "Body Armor Replacement" fund program set forth
37 in Assembly Bill No. 1856.

38 Personal protective body armor is defined as "a puncture resistant
39 body vest, individually fitted to the particular corrections officer, that
40 is designed to provide thrust, slash and penetration protection. At a
41 minimum, the vest shall be capable of withstanding the following
42 penetrations: (1) an awl thrust at 39 foot-pounds; (2) an ice pick
43 thrust at 40 foot-pounds; and (3) a boning knife thrust at 10 foot-
44 pounds."

45 Finally, the bill appropriates \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to
46 cover the purchase cost of providing personal protective body armor

1 to all State corrections officers.

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6 Authorizes issuance of protective body armor to all State corrections
7 officers; appropriates \$2,000,000.