

P.L. 1997, CHAPTER 308, *approved January 8, 1998*
Assembly, No. 1783

1 AN ACT granting jurisdiction to park police to enforce laws
2 throughout the State and amending R.S.40:37-155, R.S.40:37-203,
3 P.L.1960, c.135 and P.L.1962, c.120.

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

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8 1. Section 1 of P.L.1962, c.120 (C.40:37-95.41) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 1. The chief and officers of the park police may arrest on view and
11 without warrant, and conduct before the municipal court of the
12 municipality in which the arrest is made, or the municipal court of a
13 neighboring municipality, any person found violating the rules and
14 regulations enacted by the commission for the protection,
15 preservation, regulation and control of the park, parkways,
16 playgrounds and recreation places and all property therein, and in
17 addition while on or off duty anywhere within the territorial limits of
18 the [county] State, shall have the same powers for the enforcement of
19 the laws of this State and the apprehension of violators thereof as are
20 conferred by law upon police officers or constables.

21 (cf: P.L.1969, c.168, s.1)

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23 2. R.S.40:37-155 is amended to read as follows:

24 40:37-155. The members and officers of the park police may arrest
25 on view and without warrant, and take before a court having local
26 criminal jurisdictions of the municipality in which the arrest is made,
27 or of a neighboring municipality, any person found violating the rules
28 and regulations enacted by the commission for the protection,
29 preservation, regulation and control of the parks and parkways, and all
30 property and other things therein. Such members and officers while
31 on or off duty anywhere within the territorial limits of the [county]
32 State, shall have the same powers for the enforcement of the laws of

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 this State and the apprehension of violators thereof as are conferred
2 by law upon police officers or constables.

3 (cf: 1969, c.165, s.1)

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5 3. R.S.40:37-203 is amended to read as follows:

6 40:37-203. The members and officers of the park police may arrest
7 on view and without warrant, and conduct before the nearest police
8 magistrate of the municipality in which the arrest is made, or a police
9 magistrate of a neighboring municipality, any persons found violating
10 the rules and regulations enacted by the commission for the protection,
11 preservation, regulation and control of the parks and parkways, and all
12 property and other things therein, and in addition while on or off duty
13 anywhere within the territorial limits of the [county] State, shall have
14 the same powers for the enforcement of the laws of this State and the
15 apprehension of violators thereof as are conferred by law upon police
16 officers or constables.

17 (cf: P.L.1969, c.167, s.1)

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19 4. Section 2 of P.L.1960, c.135 (C.40:37-262) is amended to read
20 as follows:

21 2. The members and officers of the park police may arrest on view
22 and without warrant, and conduct before the municipal court of the
23 municipality in which the arrest is made, or the municipal court of a
24 neighboring municipality, any persons found violating the rules and
25 regulations adopted by the board of chosen freeholders for the
26 protection, preservation, regulation and control of the parks and
27 parkways, and all property and other things therein, and in addition
28 while on or off duty anywhere within the territorial limits of the
29 [county] State, shall have the same powers for the enforcement of the
30 laws of this State and the apprehension of violators thereof as are
31 conferred by law upon police officers or constables.

32 (cf: P.L.1969, c.166, s.1)

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34 5. This act shall take effect six months after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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39 This bill would expand the jurisdiction of park police officers.
40 Currently park police officers have jurisdiction to enforce park rules
41 and regulations, within parks, and have full police powers to enforce
42 State laws while on duty within the county where they are employed.
43 This bill would allow park police officers to enforce State laws
44 throughout the entire State, whether on or off duty.

45 Park police officers must complete the State-certified police
46 training which all other police officers must complete. In this day of

1 heightened criminal activity it is prudent to grant these fully trained
2 officers jurisdiction to enforce the laws throughout the State.

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7 Expands park police jurisdiction.