

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.