

## ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 106

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 17, 1996

By Assemblywoman FARRAGHER

- 1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging law enforcement agencies to implement  
2 and enforce New Jersey's Police Vehicular Pursuit Policy and urging the  
3 Attorney General to conduct an independent investigation of vehicular  
4 pursuits resulting in a fatality or serious injury.  
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- 6 **WHEREAS**, High-speed vehicular pursuits of suspected violators of the law by  
7 law enforcement officers pose a serious risk of danger to the officer, the  
8 suspect, motorists and pedestrians and can result in death and serious  
9 injury; and
- 10 **WHEREAS**, The Governor, the Attorney General, the Director of the Division  
11 of Criminal Justice, and the County Prosecutor's Association have issued  
12 to New Jersey's more than 500 law enforcement agencies guidelines and  
13 directives known as the New Jersey Law Enforcement Guidelines, which  
14 include New Jersey's Police Vehicular Pursuit Policy of 1993 (PVPP);  
15 and
- 16 **WHEREAS**, The PVPP, developed by a special task-force consisting of law  
17 enforcement officers, county prosecutors and Division of Criminal Justice  
18 personnel, attempted to balance the need for public safety with the duty of  
19 law enforcement officers to apprehend suspected violators of the law; and
- 20 **WHEREAS**, The PVPP guidelines and directives on vehicular pursuit are  
21 minimum statewide requirements that law enforcement agencies are  
22 required to adopt and pursuant to which each agency must develop its own  
23 operating procedures; and
- 24 **WHEREAS**, The PVPP requires law enforcement officers who have engaged  
25 in a vehicular pursuit to file an incident report containing, at a minimum, the  
26 following information: the date, time and location of the pursuit's initiation  
27 and termination; the highest speed attained; a description of the weather  
28 conditions, the road surface and the surrounding area at the time of pursuit;  
29 the reasons for initiating and terminating the pursuit; the accidents, injuries,  
30 fatalities and other consequences of the pursuit; whether the violator was  
31 apprehended; and the offenses for which the suspect was charged; and
- 32 **WHEREAS**, Each law enforcement agency must submit to the county  
33 prosecutor an annual summary report including the total number of pursuits  
34 by officers of the agency; the number resulting in an accident, injury, death,  
35 and arrest; a description of the persons injured or killed; the number of

1 vehicles involved; and the number of suspects involved and arrested; and  
2 **WHEREAS**, Each law enforcement agency must institute formal procedures to:  
3 review law enforcement officers' incident reports, assess compliance with  
4 the PVPP and the agency's operating procedures, determine its officer  
5 training and retraining needs, and identify possible improvements to  
6 vehicular pursuit policy; and

7 **WHEREAS**, A proper response to a recent rash of accidents occurring while  
8 a law enforcement officer was in a high-speed pursuit of a suspect is to call  
9 for law enforcement agencies to implement and enforce the PVPP  
10 guidelines and to request the Attorney General to conduct an independent  
11 investigation of any vehicular pursuit resulting in a death or serious injury;  
12 now, therefore,

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14 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

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16 1. This House urges law enforcement agencies to implement and enforce  
17 the Police Vehicular Pursuit Policy as set forth in the New Jersey Law  
18 Enforcement Guidelines.

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20 2. This House also urges the Attorney General to conduct an independent  
21 investigation of vehicular pursuits in which a fatality or serious injury results.

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23 3. A duly authorized copy of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of the  
24 General Assembly and attested by the Clerk thereof, shall be transmitted to  
25 the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the Attorney General of the State  
26 of New Jersey, the Director of the Division of Criminal Justice of the New  
27 Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety and the County Prosecutor's  
28 Association of New Jersey.

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## STATEMENT

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33 High-speed vehicular pursuits pose a serious risk of danger to the general  
34 public and can result in death or serious injury. However, these pursuits are  
35 sometimes necessary for law enforcement officers to carry out their duty to  
36 apprehend suspected violators of the law. Attempting to balance public safety  
37 with the needs of law enforcement, a special task-force consisting of law  
38 enforcement officers, county prosecutors and Division of Criminal Justice  
39 personnel developed the New Jersey Police Vehicular Pursuit Policy of 1993  
40 (PVPP) to guide law enforcement officers engaging in, or considering engaging  
41 in, high-speed vehicular pursuits.

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43 The PVPP imposes reporting requirements on individual officers who have  
engaged in high-speed pursuits. It also requires law enforcement agencies to

1 submit annual summary reports containing statistics on the vehicular pursuits  
2 in their jurisdictions and to implement procedures to formally review incident  
3 reports, assess the agency's training needs, determine the degree of  
4 compliance with the policy and the agency's operating procedures, and identify  
5 possible improvements to vehicular pursuit policy.

6 This resolution urges law enforcement agencies to implement and enforce  
7 the PVPP. It also urges the Attorney General to conduct an independent  
8 investigation of any vehicular pursuit which results in death or serious injury.

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13 Urges enforcement of vehicular pursuit policy and an investigation by the  
14 Attorney General of pursuits resulting in death or serious injury.