

SENATE, No. 133

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Senators KYRILLOS and INVERSO

1 AN ACT establishing a toll-free "Law Enforcement Officer Crisis
2 Intervention Services" telephone hotline, supplementing chapter 1
3 of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes and amending N.J.S.2C:64-6.
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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. (New section) a. The Commissioner of Human Services shall
9 establish and maintain, on a 24-hour daily basis, a toll-free information
10 "Law Enforcement Officer Crisis Intervention Services" telephone
11 hotline. The hotline shall receive and respond to calls from law
12 enforcement officers who have been involved in any event or incident
13 which has produced personal or job-related depression, anxiety, stress,
14 or other psychological or emotional tension, trauma, or disorder for
15 the officer. The operators of the hotline shall seek to identify those
16 officers who should be referred to further debriefing and counseling
17 services, and to provide such referrals.

18 b. The operators of the hotline shall be trained by the commissioner
19 and, to the greatest extent possible, shall be persons, who by
20 experience or education, are: (1) familiar with post trauma disorders
21 and the emotional and psychological tensions, depressions, and
22 anxieties unique to law enforcement officers; or (2) trained to provide
23 counseling services involving marriage and family life, substance
24 abuse, personal stress management and other emotional or
25 psychological disorders or conditions which may be likely to adversely
26 affect the personal and professional well-being of a law enforcement
27 officer.

28 c. To ensure the integrity of the telephone hotline and to encourage
29 law enforcement officers to utilize it, the commissioner shall provide
30 for the confidentiality of the names of the officers calling, the
31 information discussed by that officer and the operator, and any
32 referrals for further debriefing or counseling; provided, however, the

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 commissioner may, by rule and regulation, establish guidelines
2 providing for the tracking of any officer who exhibits a severe
3 emotional or psychological disorder or condition which the operator
4 handling the call reasonably believes might result in harm to the officer
5 or others.

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7 2. (New section) The commissioner shall prepare a list of
8 appropriately licensed or certified psychiatrists, psychologists, and
9 social workers; other appropriately trained and qualified counselors;
10 and experienced former law enforcement officers who are willing to
11 accept referrals and to participate in the debriefing and counseling
12 offered law enforcement officers under the provisions of this act.

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14 3. (New section) In establishing the hotline authorized under the
15 provisions of section 1 of this act, the commissioner shall consult with
16 a representative from the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police;
17 a State representative from the New Jersey State Patrolmen's
18 Benevolent Association, Fraternal Order of Police, and any other
19 exclusive bargaining representative for a law enforcement agency; and
20 such others as he may deem appropriate.

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22 4. N.J.S.2C:64-6 is amended to read as follows:

23 2C:64-6. Disposal of Forfeited Property. a. Property which has
24 been forfeited shall be destroyed if it can serve no lawful purpose or
25 it presents a danger to the public health, safety or welfare. All other
26 forfeited property or any proceeds resulting from the forfeiture and all
27 money seized pursuant to this chapter shall become the property of the
28 entity funding the prosecuting agency involved and shall be disposed
29 of, distributed, appropriated and used in accordance with the
30 provisions of this chapter.

31 The prosecutor or the Attorney General, whichever is prosecuting
32 the case, shall divide the forfeited property, any proceeds resulting
33 from the forfeiture or any money seized pursuant to this chapter with
34 any other entity where the other entity's law enforcement agency
35 participated in the surveillance, investigation, arrest or prosecution
36 resulting in the forfeiture, in proportion to the other entity's
37 contribution to the surveillance, investigation, arrest or prosecution
38 resulting in the forfeiture, as determined in the discretion of the
39 prosecutor or the Attorney General, whichever is prosecuting the case.
40 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, such forfeited property
41 and proceeds shall be used solely for law enforcement purposes, and
42 shall be designated for the exclusive use of the law enforcement
43 agency which contributed to the surveillance, investigation, arrest or
44 prosecution resulting in the forfeiture.

45 The Attorney General is authorized to promulgate rules and
46 regulations to implement and enforce the provisions of this act.

1 b. For a period of two years from the date of enactment of
2 P.L.1993, c.227 (C.26:4-100.13 et al.), 10% of the proceeds obtained
3 by the Attorney General under the provisions of subsection a. of this
4 section shall be deposited into the Hepatitis Inoculation Fund
5 established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1993, c.227 (C.26:4-100.13).

6 c. Beginning two years from the date of enactment of P.L.1993,
7 c.227 (C.26:4-100.13 et al.) and in subsequent years, 5% of the
8 proceeds obtained by the Attorney General under the provisions of
9 subsection a. of this section shall be deposited into the Hepatitis
10 Inoculation Fund established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1993, c.227
11 (C.26:4-100.13).

12 d. From the proceeds obtained by the Attorney General under the
13 provisions of subsection a. of this section, such amounts as shall be
14 necessary shall be appropriated to fund the establishment and
15 operation of the "Law Enforcement Officer Crisis Intervention
16 Services" telephone hotline authorized under the provisions of P.L. .
17 c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as this bill).
18 (cf: P.L.1993, c.227, s.1)

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20 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
21 following enactment, but the Commissioner of Human Services may
22 take such anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be
23 necessary for the implementation of the act.

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STATEMENT

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28 This bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services to establish
29 a 24-hour "Law Enforcement Officer Crisis Intervention Services"
30 telephone hotline. The hotline would receive and respond to calls
31 from law enforcement officers who have been involved in any event or
32 incident which has produced personal or job-related depression,
33 anxiety, stress, or other psychological or emotional tension, trauma,
34 pressure, or disorder for the officer. The hotline operators are to seek
35 to identify those officers who should be referred to further debriefing
36 and counseling services, and to provide such referrals.

37 Law enforcement is an extremely difficult and stressful occupation.
38 Officers are constantly involved in events and incidents that can cause
39 great emotional and psychological pressures which, in turn, can have
40 an adverse effect on their personal and professional lives. As an
41 occupational group, law enforcement officers have an uncommonly
42 high incidence of suicide, marital and family problems, alcohol and
43 substance abuse, and other stress related disorders.

44 The bill provides for the hotline to be established by the
45 Commissioner of Human Services, to ensure the law enforcement
46 community of the confidential nature and the integrity of the program.

1 Having the Commissioner of Human Services rather than a law
2 enforcement agency in charge will ensure that the names of the callers
3 and the information exchanged will not be revealed to an officer's
4 superiors or employer. The bill does provide, however, for the
5 commissioner to establish guidelines to provide for the tracking of an
6 officer who exhibits such a severe emotional or psychological disorder
7 or condition that the operator taking the call reasonably believes might
8 result in harm to the officer or to others.

9 In establishing the hotline, the commissioner is to consult with
10 representatives from the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police,
11 the New Jersey State Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, the
12 Fraternal Order of Police, and other parties who can contribute to the
13 development and operation of an effective program.

14 The bill also directs the commissioner to prepare a list of licensed
15 or certified psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers; qualified
16 counselors; and experienced former law enforcement officers who are
17 willing to participate in the program and provide debriefing and
18 counseling services.

19 Funding for the hotline is to come from the proceeds the Attorney
20 General receives from the disposal of property forfeited by criminals.

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25 Establishes "Law Enforcement Officer Crisis Intervention Services"
26 telephone hotline.