

## SENATE, No. 69

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# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Senators CASEY and KOSCO

1   **AN ACT** concerning State assistance for community policing programs  
2       and 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. As used in this act:

8       "Community policing" means a law enforcement and crime  
9       prevention strategy that emphasizes police foot patrols, personal  
10      interaction between law enforcement officers and residents, the  
11      coordination of law enforcement services with other public and private  
12      services to reduce criminal activity, and the involvement of residents  
13      in crime prevention programs.

14       "Eligible cost" means the cost of purchasing, leasing or renovating  
15      a structure for use as a regional crime prevention community policing  
16      center, the cost of equipment needed to carry out the objectives of a  
17      regional community policing program, and the salary cost of a crime  
18      prevention officer employed by the center.

19       "Regional crime prevention community policing center" or "center"  
20      means a structure strategically located within a municipality that serves  
21      as a regional base of combined operations for municipal law  
22      enforcement officers, personnel of other law enforcement agencies,  
23      community town watch or crime prevention organizations, and  
24      residents working cooperatively in a community policing program.  
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26       2. a. There is created in the Department of Treasury a nonlapsing,  
27       revolving fund entitled the "Regional Crime Prevention Community  
28       Policing Assistance Fund." This fund shall be the depository for any  
29       appropriations, grants or other moneys provided to carry out the  
30       purposes of this act. Interest earned on these deposits shall accrue to  
31       the fund.

32       b. Moneys deposited in the fund shall be used exclusively for grants  
33       to assist municipalities to establish regional crime prevention  
34       community policing centers as provided in section 3 of this act.

1       3. a. A municipality that establishes or plans to establish a regional  
2 crime prevention community policing center as part of a community  
3 policing program may apply to the Attorney General for a grant to  
4 defray its eligible costs under this act. Grants may be used to pay up  
5 to 50 percent of eligible costs incurred by the municipality in  
6 establishing the center, but no grant shall be considered unless such  
7 funding is to be supplemented with municipal or county drug  
8 enforcement funds on hand. A municipality may not receive more than  
9 \$50,000 under this act.

10        b. Application for grants shall be made in a manner prescribed by  
11 the Attorney General pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"  
12 P.L.1968, c410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.). The Attorney General shall  
13 establish such other rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out  
14 the purposes of this act, including rules for the allowable uses of grant  
15 funds, the allocation of funds among grantees, and the accountability  
16 of grantees for funds received.

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18       4. There is appropriated \$1,000,000 to the Department of Law and  
19      Public Safety for deposit in the Regional Crime Prevention Community  
20      Policing Assistance Fund to carry out the purposes of this act.

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22 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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## STATEMENT

27 This bill seeks to encourage the establishment of "Regional Crime  
28 Prevention Community Policing Centers" as a means of carrying out  
29 effective municipal community policing programs. Community  
30 policing is a law enforcement and crime prevention strategy that  
31 emphasizes police foot or bicycle patrols, interaction between police  
32 and neighborhood residents, and the cooperation of police and other  
33 public and private agencies. The use of community policing has  
34 proven successful in deterring criminal activity and improving  
35 neighborhood morale.

36 This bill would provide grants to municipalities which establish  
37 centralized regional community policing programs. The grants would  
38 pay for up to 50 percent of the cost of purchasing, leasing or  
39 renovating a structure to be used for a regional crime prevention  
40 community policing center, the salary of a crime prevention officer,  
41 and necessary equipment. These centers would serve as a base of  
42 combined operations for local police and other law enforcement  
43 officers. They also would house resident town watch and crime  
44 prevention organizations.

45 A regional crime prevention community policing center recently  
46 established at a neighborhood location in Pennsauken is a working

1 prototype of the type of facility envisioned by this bill. The center  
2 houses municipal police bicycle units, the Camden County sheriff's  
3 transportation office, municipal and county crime prevention  
4 programs, and town watch groups. The co-location of these agencies  
5 in a neighborhood setting has facilitated their work and received an  
6 enthusiastic reception from local residents.

7 Grant funding would be provided from a Regional Crime Prevention  
8 Community Policing Assistance Fund, established by the bill. Grant  
9 applications would be submitted by municipalities to the Attorney  
10 General, who would administer the grant fund and establish program  
11 guidelines. Municipalities would have to provide a 50 percent local  
12 share in establishing a regional crime prevention community policing  
13 center. Part of this matching amount would be required to include  
14 on-hand municipal or county drug enforcement funds. Grants to  
15 individual municipalities may not exceed \$50,000.

16 The bill provides an appropriation of \$1 million for deposit in the  
17 Community Policing Assistance Fund.

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22 Establishes grants for community policing facilities; appropriates \$1  
23 million.