

SENATE, No. 2318

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 11, 1997

By Senator CASEY

1 AN ACT concerning the State Police and supplementing Title 53 of the
2 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 "Billable patrolled municipality" means a patrolled municipality,
9 with a population density per square mile greater than the average
10 population density of all patrolled municipalities, according to the
11 1990 decennial census.

12 "Division" means the Division of State Police in the Department of
13 Law and Public Safety.

14 "Patrolled municipality" means a municipality, without a police
15 force, which is patrolled by the Division of State Police on a full-time
16 basis.

17 "Superintendent" means the Superintendent of the Division of the
18 State Police.

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20 2. The superintendent shall determine the annual cost of providing
21 State Police patrol services to billable patrolled municipalities and,
22 within six months of the effective date of this act, shall notify these
23 municipalities that they will be required to reimburse the State for this
24 cost. Within 90 days of receipt of this notice, a billable patrolled
25 municipality shall inform the superintendent whether it wishes to
26 reimburse the State for State Police services or establish its own police
27 force. Effective on the first day of the 14th month following the
28 effective date of this act, the superintendent shall monthly provide to
29 billable patrolled municipalities an itemized bill for State Police
30 services provided in the previous month. A billable patrolled
31 municipality shall remit payment to the State for services billed.
32 Notwithstanding the provisions of R.S.53:2-1, to the contrary, State
33 Police services provided to billable patrolled municipalities which elect
34 not to reimburse the State for these services shall be discontinued.

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36 3. There is established in the Department of Treasury a nonlapsing,
37 revolving fund to be known as the "State Trooper Patrol Fund."

1 Moneys collected in payment for State Police patrol services shall be
2 deposited in this fund and all interest shall accrue to this fund. The
3 fund shall be used solely to defray the cost of State Police services to
4 billable patrolled municipalities. Moneys in the fund shall be allocated
5 annually to defray the cost to the division of assigning troopers to
6 patrolled municipalities.

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8 4. Pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
9 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the superintendent may promulgate all rules and
10 regulations necessary to carry out this act.

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12 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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15 STATEMENT

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17 This bill requires certain municipalities that presently rely on State
18 Trooper patrol services, because they do not have their own police
19 forces, to pay for these services. Currently, the State Police furnish
20 full-time police protection to approximately 74 municipalities and part-
21 time protection to 24 municipalities at an estimated cost of \$43.8
22 million a year. Historically, these municipalities were sparsely
23 populated, low-income and rural. However, over the years many of
24 these municipalities have become increasingly suburbanized, more
25 densely populated and wealthier. It is unfair to use the tax dollars
26 contributed by all the taxpayers of New Jersey to subsidize free police
27 services for those municipalities which choose not to establish their
28 own police force.

29 This bill represents a first step toward addressing this inequity. It
30 would require the most densely populated of the 74 municipalites
31 receiving full-time State Police services, within one year, to either
32 begin to reimburse the State for the cost of these services or establish
33 a police force. Municipalities with a population density greater than
34 107.5 residents per square mile, the average population density of the
35 74 municipalities, would be subject to the provisions of this act.
36 About 44 municipalities would be affected.

37 The bill directs the moneys collected be deposited into the "State
38 Trooper Patrol Fund" to defray the costs to the Division of State
39 Police of assigning troopers to patrol municipalities.

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44 Requires certain municipalities to pay for State Police patrol services.