

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2722

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI**  
**District 33 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Verrelli and Assemblywoman Murphy**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires Commissioner of Corrections to institute 30-minute shift overlap in State correctional facilities.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/13/2020)**

1 AN ACT concerning shift overlap in State correctional facilities and  
2 supplementing chapter 1B of Title 30 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. In addition to the duties of the commissioner set forth in  
8 section 6 of P.L.1976, c.98 (C.30:1B-6), the commissioner shall  
9 institute in each State correctional facility a shift overlap of 30  
10 minutes for the purpose of information dissemination between  
11 corrections officers beginning and ending their shifts.

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13 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month  
14 after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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19 This bill requires the Commissioner of Corrections to institute a  
20 30-minute shift overlap in each of the 13 correctional facilities in  
21 this State for the purpose of information dissemination between  
22 corrections officers beginning and ending their shifts.

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24 Under the program of shift overlap established in the bill, a  
25 corrections officer whose shift has ended would be required to  
26 remain at his or her post for 30 minutes after the end of the shift to  
27 report what happened during that shift to the incoming officer.

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29 Shift overlap enhances the safety and well-being of the officers  
30 and inmates in correctional facilities by allowing for the sharing of  
31 information between incoming and outgoing officers, particularly  
32 on issues such as gang activities and contraband.

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34 According to the Assembly Prison Gang Violence Task Force  
35 final report, issued December 12, 2006, the Department of  
36 Corrections historically provided for shift overlap periods of up to  
37 30 minutes, but gradually reduced these periods until they were  
38 ultimately phased out altogether due to budget constraints.

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40 According to the sponsor, this has resulted in increased danger to  
41 inmates and corrections officers, increased use of institutional  
42 lockups and search details, and decreased morale among corrections  
43 officers.