

ASSEMBLY, No. 5789

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 1, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Requires Police Training Commission to adopt uniform standards for licensing police officers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning the licensing of police officers in this State and
2 amending P.L.1961, c.56.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 6 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-71) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 6. The commission is vested with the power, responsibility and
10 duty:

11 a. To prescribe standards for the approval and continuation of
12 approval of schools at which police training courses authorized by
13 this act and in-service police training courses shall be conducted,
14 including but not limited to currently existing regional, county,
15 municipal, and police chief association police training schools or at
16 which basic training courses and in-service training courses shall be
17 conducted for State and county juvenile and adult correctional
18 police officers and juvenile detention officers;

19 b. To approve and issue certificates of approval to these
20 schools, to inspect the schools from time to time, and to revoke any
21 approval or certificate issued to the schools;

22 c. To prescribe the curriculum, the minimum courses of study,
23 attendance requirements, equipment and facilities, and standards of
24 operation for these schools. Courses of study in crime prevention
25 may be recommended to the Police Training Commission by the
26 Crime Prevention Advisory Committee, established by section 2 of
27 P.L.1985, c.1 (C.52:17B-77.1). The Police Training Commission
28 may prescribe psychological and psychiatric examinations for
29 police recruits while in the schools;

30 d. To prescribe minimum qualifications for instructors at these
31 schools and to certify, as qualified, instructors for approved police
32 training schools and to issue appropriate certificates to the
33 instructors;

34 e. To certify police officers, correctional police officers,
35 juvenile correctional police officers, and juvenile detention officers
36 who have satisfactorily completed training programs and to issue
37 appropriate certificates to the police officers, correctional police
38 officers, juvenile correctional police officers, and juvenile detention
39 officers;

40 f. To advise and consent in the appointment of an
41 administrator of police services by the Attorney General pursuant to
42 section 8 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-73);

43 g. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1985, c.491)

44 h. To make rules and regulations as may be reasonably

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

- 1 necessary or appropriate to accomplish the purposes and objectives
2 of this act;
- 3 i. To make a continuous study of police training methods and
4 training methods for correctional police officers, juvenile
5 correctional police officers, and juvenile detention officers and to
6 consult and accept the cooperation of any recognized federal or
7 State law enforcement agency or educational institution;
- 8 j. To consult and cooperate with universities, colleges, and
9 institutes in the State for the development of specialized courses of
10 study for police officers in police science and police administration;
- 11 k. To consult and cooperate with other departments and
12 agencies of the State concerned with police training or the training
13 of correctional police officers, juvenile correctional police officers,
14 and juvenile detention officers;
- 15 l. To participate in unified programs and projects relating to
16 police training and the training of correctional police officers,
17 juvenile correctional police officers, and juvenile detention officers
18 sponsored by any federal, State, or other public or private agency;
- 19 m. To perform other acts as may be necessary or appropriate to
20 carry out its functions and duties as set forth in this act;
- 21 n. To extend the time limit for satisfactory completion of police
22 training programs or programs for the training of correctional police
23 officers, juvenile correctional police officers, and juvenile detention
24 officers upon a finding that health, extraordinary workload, or other
25 factors have, singly or in combination, effected a delay in the
26 satisfactory completion of the training program;
- 27 o. (1) To furnish approved schools, for inclusion in their regular
28 police training courses and curriculum, with information concerning
29 the advisability of high speed chases, the risk caused by them, and
30 the benefits resulting from them;
- 31 (2) To review and approve new standards and course curricula
32 for police training courses or programs to be offered by approved
33 schools for the training of police officers to be certified as a Drug
34 Recognition Expert for detecting, identifying, and apprehending
35 drug-impaired motor vehicle operators. The commission shall
36 consult with the Cannabis Regulatory Commission established by
37 31 of P.L.2019, c.153 (C.24:6I-24) with respect to any aspects of
38 the course curricula that focus on impairment from the use of
39 cannabis items as defined by section 3 of P.L.2021, c.16 (C.24:6I-
40 33) or marijuana. Any police officer certified and recognized by the
41 commission as a Drug Recognition Expert prior to the effective date
42 of this section, as amended by the "New Jersey Cannabis
43 Regulatory, Enforcement Assistance, and Marketplace
44 Modernization Act," P.L.2021, c.16 (C.24:6I-31 et al.), shall
45 continue to be recognized as certified until that certification has
46 expired or is no longer considered valid as determined by the
47 commission, or the certification is replaced by the police officer

1 with a new certification in accordance with the new standards and
2 course curricula for certification described in this paragraph.

3 p. To review and approve new standards and course curricula
4 developed by the Department of Corrections for both basic and in-
5 service training of State and county correctional police officers and
6 juvenile detention officers. These courses for the State correctional
7 police officers and juvenile detention officers shall be centrally
8 provided at the Corrections Officers' Training Academy of the
9 Department of Corrections. Courses for the county correctional
10 police officers and juvenile detention officers shall also be centrally
11 provided at the Corrections Officers' Training Academy unless an
12 off-grounds training program is established by the county. A
13 county may elect to establish and conduct a basic training program
14 for correctional police officers and juvenile detention officers
15 seeking permanent appointment in that county. The Corrections
16 Officers' Training Academy shall develop the curriculum of the
17 basic training program to be conducted by a county;

18 q. To administer and distribute the monies in the Law
19 Enforcement Officers Training and Equipment Fund established by
20 section 9 of P.L.1996, c.115 (C.2C:43-3.3) and make rules and
21 regulations for the administration and distribution of the monies as
22 may be necessary or appropriate to accomplish the purpose for
23 which the fund was established; and

24 r. To adopt uniform standards for licensing of all State, county,
25 and municipal police officers including, but not limited to,
26 minimum qualifications for licensure, in-service training
27 requirements, and renewal and revocation procedures.

28 (cf: P.L.2021, c.16, s.85)

29
30 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh
31 month next following enactment.

32 33 34 STATEMENT

35
36 This bill requires the Police Training Commission (PTC) in the
37 Department of Law and Public Safety to license police officers in
38 this State. Police officers are not licensed under current law.

39 The bill specifically requires the PTC to adopt uniform standards
40 for licensing of all State, county, and municipal police officers.
41 The standards are to include minimum qualifications for licensure,
42 in-service training requirements, and renewal and revocation
43 procedures.

44 The PTC currently is responsible for the basic training of police
45 officers.