§1 C.52:17B-77.19

## (CORRECTED COPY)

## P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 305, *approved November 8, 2021* Assembly, No. 5751

AN ACT concerning State correctional police officer training,
 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes, and amending
 P.L.2019, c.410 and P.L.1991, c.110.

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

8 1. (New section) a. The Police Training Commission shall, 9 pursuant to its statutory authority to certify correctional police 10 officers as set forth in subsection e. of section 6 of P.L.1961, c.56 11 (C.52:17B-70), establish and incorporate throughout the required 12 basic training course for State correctional police officers the 13 concept that the core mission of these officers is to treat every 14 inmate with dignity, fairness, and respect.

b. To implement the core mission established in subsection a. of
this section, the commission shall ensure that the basic training
course for State correctional police officers includes, at a minimum,
comprehensive training and education on the following topics:

(1) de-escalation, including training in interacting with
combative or threatening inmates and inmates experiencing mental
health crises;

(2) minimization of use of force against inmates;

23 (3) cultural diversity and implicit bias;

(4) appropriate methods of engaging with inmates of diverse
cultures and religions and inmates who are members of the lesbian,
gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) community
and gender nonconforming inmates;

28 (5) the rights of inmates;

29 (6) lifestyle stressors, self-awareness, and self-regulation;

30 (7) maintaining officer and inmate safety;

31 (8) communication skills; and

32 (9) any other topic deemed necessary by the commission to
33 advance the core mission of treating inmates with dignity, fairness,
34 and respect.

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36 2. Section 1 of P.L.2019, c.410 (C.30:1B-6.13) is amended to
37 read as follows:

1. a. In addition to the duties of the commissioner set forth in
section 6 of P.L.1976, c.98 (C.30:1B-6), the commissioner shall
institute a mandatory annual in-service training program of at least
[20] 40 hours for each correctional police officer in every State

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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

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1 correctional facility. The commissioner shall establish and 2 incorporate in the in-service training program curriculum the 3 concept that the core mission of a State correctional police officer is 4 to treat every inmate with dignity, fairness, and respect. 5 At least four hours of the mandatory [20] 40 hours of b. 6 training required by subsection a. of this section shall include 7 training in: 8 (1) sexual assault, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment 9 prevention as required pursuant to the provisions of the federal 10 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA); 11 (2) non-fraternization and undue familiarity; and 12 (3) conditioning and manipulation awareness. 13 c. Sixteen hours of the training required by subsection a. of this 14 section shall be dedicated to topics chosen by the training department of each State correctional facility from a list of 15 16 approved courses developed by the commissioner. 17 d. The training required in subsection a. of this section shall be 18 in addition to firearms qualification training and use-of force 19 training. 20 e. Twenty hours of the training required by subsection a. of this 21 section shall include training in; (1) de-escalation, including training in interacting with 22 23 combative or threatening inmates and inmates experiencing mental 24 health crises; 25 (2) minimization of use of force; 26 (3) cultural diversity and implicit bias; 27 (4) appropriate methods of engaging with inmates of diverse 28 cultures and religions and inmates who are members of the lesbian, 29 gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) community 30 and gender nonconforming inmates; 31 (5) the rights of inmates; 32 (6) lifestyle stressors, self-awareness, and self-regulation; 33 (7) officer and inmate safety; 34 (8) communication skills; and (9) any other topic deemed necessary by the commissioner to 35 advance the core mission of treating inmates with dignity, fairness, 36 37 and respect. 38 (cf: P.L.2019, c.410, s.1) 39 40 3. Section 1 of P.L.1991, c.110 (C.30:4-3.11) is amended to read 41 as follows: 42 1. [No] <u>A</u> person shall <u>not</u> be appointed as a [corrections] correctional police officer of any correctional institution assigned, 43 44 maintained, or operated by the Department of Corrections unless 45 that person: 46 a. **[**Is**]** is a citizen of the United States;

1 b. **[**Is**]** is able to read, write and speak the English language 2 well and intelligently and has a high school diploma or its 3 equivalent; 4 c. [Is] is sound in body and of good health; 5 d. [Is] is of good moral character; and 6 e. [Has] has not been convicted of any offense which would 7 make [him] the person unfit to perform the duties of [his] the 8 office as evidenced by a criminal history record background check. 9 (cf: P.L.1991, c.110, s.1) 10 11 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month 12 next following enactment. 13 14 15 **STATEMENT** 16 17 This bill requires that the core mission of State corrections 18 officers to treat inmates with dignity, fairness, and respect be 19 established and incorporated throughout both the basic and in-20 service training these officers are required to complete. 21 To implement this requirement, the basic training and in-service 22 curriculum is to include training and education on the following 23 de-escalation, including training in interacting with topics: 24 combative or threatening inmates and inmates experiencing mental 25 health crises; minimization of use of force against inmates; cultural 26 diversity and implicit bias; appropriate methods of engaging with inmates of diverse cultures and religions and inmates who are 27 28 members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning 29 (LGBTQ) community and gender nonconforming inmates; the 30 rights of inmates; lifestyle stressors, self-awareness, and self-31 regulation; officer and inmate safety; communication skills; and any 32 other topic deemed necessary to advance the core mission of 33 treating inmates with dignity, fairness, and respect. 34 Current law requires 20 hours of in-service training for State 35 correctional police officers. Of these 20 hours, four hours of this 36 mandatory training is required to cover sexual assault, sexual abuse, 37 and sexual harassment prevention as required by the federal Prison 38 Rape Elimination Act (PREA); non-fraternization and undue 39 familiarity; and conditioning and manipulation awareness. The 40 remaining 16 hours is to be dedicated to topics chosen by the 41 training department of each State correctional facility from a list of 42 approved courses developed by the Department of Corrections. 43 This bill increases the mandatory in-service training from 20 hours 44 to 40 hours. The additional 20 hours are to be dedicated to the 45 topics implementing the core mission as specified in the bill.

The bill also clarifies that passing a criminal history record
 background check is a qualification for employment as a State
 corrections officer.

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8 Expands State corrections officers training to include topics 9 contributing to their core mission of treating inmates with dignity,

10 fairness, and respect.