

**SENATE, No. 3823**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MAY 20, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LORETTA WEINBERG**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Senator VIN GOPAL**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Turner**

**SYNOPSIS**

Expands State corrections officers training to include topics contributing to their core mission of treating inmates with dignity, fairness, and respect.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/17/2021)**

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

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

7  
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.

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

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

22 (2) minimization of use of force against inmates;

23 (3) cultural diversity and implicit bias;

24 (4) appropriate methods of engaging with inmates of diverse  
25 cultures and religions and inmates who are members of the lesbian,  
26 gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) community  
27 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.

35  
36 2. Section 1 of P.L.2019, c.410 (C.30:1B-6.13) is amended to  
37 read as follows:

38 1. a. In addition to the duties of the commissioner set forth in  
39 section 6 of P.L.1976, c.98 (C.30:1B-6), the commissioner shall  
40 institute a mandatory annual in-service training program of at least  
41 **[20]** 40 hours for each correctional police officer in every State  
42 correctional facility. The commissioner shall establish and  
43 incorporate in the in-service training program curriculum the  
44 concept that the core mission of a State correctional police officer is  
45 to treat every inmate with dignity, fairness, and respect.

**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       b. At least four hours of the mandatory **【20】** 40 hours of  
2 training required by subsection a. of this section shall include  
3 training in:

4       (1) sexual assault, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment  
5 prevention as required pursuant to the provisions of the federal  
6 Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA);

7       (2) non-fraternization and undue familiarity; and

8       (3) conditioning and manipulation awareness.

9       c. Sixteen hours of the training required by subsection a. of this  
10 section shall be dedicated to topics chosen by the training  
11 department of each State correctional facility from a list of  
12 approved courses developed by the commissioner.

13       d. The training required in subsection a. of this section shall be  
14 in addition to firearms qualification training and use-of force  
15 training.

16       e. Twenty hours of the training required by subsection a. of this  
17 section shall include training in:

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

21       (2) minimization of use of force;

22       (3) cultural diversity and implicit bias;

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

27       (5) the rights of inmates;

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

29       (7) officer and inmate safety;

30       (8) communication skills; and

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

34 (cf: P.L.2019, c.410, s.1)

35  
36       3. Section 1 of P.L.1991, c.110 (C.30:4-3.11) is amended to read  
37 as follows:

38       1. **【No】** A person shall not be appointed as a **【corrections】**  
39 correctional police officer of any correctional institution assigned,  
40 maintained, or operated by the Department of Corrections unless  
41 that person:

42       a. **【Is】** is a citizen of the United States;

43       b. **【Is】** is able to read, write and speak the English language  
44 well and intelligently and has a high school diploma or its  
45 equivalent;

46       c. **【Is】** is sound in body and of good health;

47       d. **【Is】** is of good moral character; and

1 e. **【Has】** has not been convicted of any offense which would  
2 make **【him】** the person unfit to perform the duties of **【his】** the  
3 office as evidenced by a criminal history record background check.  
4 (cf: P.L.1991, c.110, s.1)

5  
6 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh  
7 month next following enactment.  
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#### 10 STATEMENT

11  
12 This bill requires that the core mission of State corrections  
13 officers to treat inmates with dignity, fairness, and respect be  
14 established and incorporated throughout both the basic and in-  
15 service training these officers are required to complete.

16 To implement this requirement, the basic training and in-service  
17 curriculum is to include training and education on the following  
18 topics: de-escalation, including training in interacting with  
19 combative or threatening inmates and inmates experiencing mental  
20 health crises; minimization of use of force against inmates; cultural  
21 diversity and implicit bias; appropriate methods of engaging with  
22 inmates of diverse cultures and religions and inmates who are  
23 members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning  
24 (LGBTQ) community and gender nonconforming inmates; the  
25 rights of inmates; lifestyle stressors, self-awareness, and self-  
26 regulation; officer and inmate safety; communication skills; and any  
27 other topic deemed necessary to advance the core mission of  
28 treating inmates with dignity, fairness, and respect.

29 Current law requires 20 hours of in-service training for State  
30 correctional police officers. Of these 20 hours, four hours of this  
31 mandatory training is required to cover sexual assault, sexual abuse,  
32 and sexual harassment prevention as required by the federal Prison  
33 Rape Elimination Act (PREA); non-fraternization and undue  
34 familiarity; and conditioning and manipulation awareness. The  
35 remaining 16 hours is to be dedicated to topics chosen by the  
36 training department of each State correctional facility from a list of  
37 approved courses developed by the Department of Corrections.  
38 This bill increases the mandatory in-service training from 20 hours  
39 to 40 hours. The additional 20 hours are to be dedicated to the  
40 topics implementing the core mission as specified in the bill.

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