

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2654**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**220th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires chief law enforcement officer of municipal police departments to hold two community roundtables on police relations each year.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning certain police community roundtables and  
2 supplementing chapter 14 of Title 40A of the New Jersey  
3 statutes.

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

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8 1. a. The chief law enforcement officer of the municipality or, if  
9 the municipality does not have a chief law enforcement officer, the  
10 Superintendent of State Police, shall sponsor an open community  
11 roundtable discussion on police relations at least twice per calendar  
12 year. One community roundtable shall be held in the spring and  
13 one community roundtable shall be held in the fall.

14 b. To maximize community participation, the sponsor of the  
15 community roundtable shall provide ample notice to the  
16 community, hold the roundtable at a central location in the  
17 municipality, and schedule the roundtable in the evening.

18 c. Topics to be addressed at the community roundtable shall  
19 include, but not be limited to:

- 20 (1) race relations and racial profiling;  
21 (2) recruitment, selection, and retention of officers;  
22 (3) training and education of recruits and supervisors;  
23 (4) regulation of body worn cameras; and  
24 (5) use of force, police misconduct, and internal affairs  
25 investigations.

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27 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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30 STATEMENT

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32 This bill requires the chief law enforcement officer of every  
33 municipal police department in this State to sponsor at least two  
34 community roundtables on police relations each year.

35 The bill specifically requires the chief law enforcement officer of  
36 the municipality or, if the municipality does not have a chief law  
37 enforcement officer, the Superintendent of State Police to sponsor  
38 an open community roundtable on police relations in the spring and  
39 fall of each calendar year. The bill requires these community  
40 roundtables to be held in the evening at a central location in the  
41 municipality with ample notice in order to maximize public  
42 participation.

43 Topics to be addressed at the community roundtables include  
44 race relations and racial profiling; recruitment, selection, and  
45 retention of officers; training and education of recruits and  
46 supervisors; regulation of body worn cameras; and use of force,  
47 police misconduct, and internal affairs investigations.

1       According to the sponsor, the grassroots, diverse discussions that  
2       are the basis of community roundtables are essential in addressing  
3       the complex and divisive issues involving citizens and police  
4       officers. Community roundtables are an ideal forum for addressing  
5       these critical public issues in a democratic and collaborative way.