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FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

"Law honoring corrections officers signed," The Daily Journal, July 18, 2012

LAW/KR

P.L.2012, CHAPTER 21, *approved July 17, 2012*
Assembly, No. 481 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT ¹[designating] designated as Fred Baker’s Law and
2 establishing¹ July 30th of each year as “Corrections ¹[Officers]
3 Officer¹ Day” in New Jersey to recognize all corrections officers
4 and to honor those who have been killed in the line of duty.
5

6 **WHEREAS**, The operation of correctional facilities represents a crucial
7 component of the criminal justice system in the United States, and
8 correctional personnel play a vital role in protecting the rights of the
9 public to be safeguarded from criminal activity; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Corrections officers in the State of New Jersey oversee the
11 State’s correctional facilities and are responsible for the care,
12 custody, and maintenance of more than 25,000 inmates charged to
13 their care; and

14 **WHEREAS**, To carry out their responsibilities, corrections officers
15 work under demanding circumstances and face danger in their daily
16 work lives, which sometimes results in the loss of life; and

17 **WHEREAS**, On July 30th, 1997, Senior Corrections Officer Fred Baker
18 paid the ultimate price when he was brutally stabbed to death by an
19 inmate at Bayside State Prison in Leesburg, Cumberland County;
20 and

21 **WHEREAS**, In addition to Senior Corrections Officer Fred Baker,
22 numerous New Jersey corrections officers have lost their lives in
23 the line of duty; and

24 **WHEREAS**, In 1984, former President Ronald Regan signed
25 Proclamation 5187, which designated the first week in May as
26 “National Correctional Officers Week” in honor of corrections
27 officers who put their lives on the line every day to protect the
28 public from dangerous criminals and to help prisoners work toward
29 becoming productive members of society; and

30 **WHEREAS**, In 1996, Congress expanded and renamed this special
31 week “National Correctional Officers and Employees Week” in
32 recognition of all those employed with city, state and federal
33 correctional departments; and

34 **WHEREAS**, In accordance with the federal government’s recognition of
35 the indispensable contributions that corrections officers make every
36 day to protect our citizens from harm, ¹[and in] it is proper and
37 befitting for the State of New Jersey to¹ honor ¹[of those] all¹
38 corrections officers ¹, not only those¹ who have made the ultimate

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ALP committee amendments adopted June 18, 2012.

1 sacrifice in upholding their duty to the public here in New Jersey ¹;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, It is altogether fitting and appropriate to annually designate
4 July 30th, the anniversary of Senior Corrections Officer Frank
5 Baker's tragic and brutal death in the line of duty, as "Corrections
6 Officer Day" in the State of New Jersey¹; now, therefore,
7

8 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
9 *of New Jersey:*
10

11 1. July 30th of each year shall be designated as "Corrections
12 **'[Officers] Officer¹'** Day" in the State of New Jersey in recognition
13 of the dedicated service corrections officers have rendered to their
14 fellow citizens.
15

16 2. The Governor shall issue annually a proclamation
17 designating July 30th of each year as "Corrections **'[Officers]**
18 **Officer¹'** Day," and with the Legislature call upon all citizens of the
19 State and all other public and private agencies and organizations to
20 celebrate "Corrections **'[Officers] Officer¹'** Day" by appropriate
21 observance.
22

23 3. The Governor shall direct the staff at the State's correctional
24 facilities to fly the flag of the United States and the State flag at
25 half-staff in honor of all those corrections officers who have been
26 killed in the line of duty.
27

28 4. This act shall take effect immediately.
29
30
31

32
33 _____
34 Fred Baker's Law; establishes July 30th of each year as
"Corrections Officer Day."

ASSEMBLY, No. 481

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

215th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2012 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman NELSON T. ALBANO
District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman MATTHEW W. MILAM
District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON
District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON
District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Designates July 30th of each year as “Corrections Officers Day.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/19/2012)

1 AN ACT designating July 30th of each year as “Corrections Officers
2 Day” in New Jersey to recognize all corrections officers and to
3 honor those who have been killed in the line of duty.
4

5 **WHEREAS**, The operation of correctional facilities represents a crucial
6 component of the criminal justice system in the United States, and
7 correctional personnel play a vital role in protecting the rights of the
8 public to be safeguarded from criminal activity; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Corrections officers in the State of New Jersey oversee the
10 State’s correctional facilities and are responsible for the care,
11 custody, and maintenance of more than 25,000 inmates charged to
12 their care; and

13 **WHEREAS**, To carry out their responsibilities, corrections officers
14 work under demanding circumstances and face danger in their daily
15 work lives, which sometimes results in the loss of life; and

16 **WHEREAS**, On July 30th, 1997, Senior Corrections Officer Fred Baker
17 paid the ultimate price when he was brutally stabbed to death by an
18 inmate at Bayside State Prison in Leesburg, Cumberland County;
19 and

20 **WHEREAS**, In addition to Senior Corrections Officer Fred Baker,
21 numerous New Jersey corrections officers have lost their lives in
22 the line of duty; and

23 **WHEREAS**, In 1984, former President Ronald Regan signed
24 Proclamation 5187, which designated the first week in May as
25 “National Correctional Officers Week” in honor of corrections
26 officers who put their lives on the line every day to protect the
27 public from dangerous criminals and to help prisoners work toward
28 becoming productive members of society; and

29 **WHEREAS**, In 1996, Congress expanded and renamed this special
30 week “National Correctional Officers and Employees Week” in
31 recognition of all those employed with city, state and federal
32 correctional departments; and

33 **WHEREAS**, In accordance with the federal government’s recognition of
34 the indispensable contributions that corrections officers make every
35 day to protect our citizens from harm, and in honor of those
36 corrections officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in
37 upholding their duty to the public here in New Jersey; now,
38 therefore,
39

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

42
43 1. July 30th of each year shall be designated as “Corrections
44 Officers Day” in the State of New Jersey in recognition of the
45 dedicated service corrections officers have rendered to their fellow
46 citizens.

1 2. The Governor shall issue annually a proclamation
2 designating July 30th of each year as “Corrections Officers Day,”
3 and with the Legislature call upon all citizens of the State and all
4 other public and private agencies and organizations to celebrate
5 “Corrections Officers Day” by appropriate observance.
6

7 3. The Governor shall direct the staff at the State’s correctional
8 facilities to fly the flag of the United States and the State flag at
9 half-staff in honor of all those corrections officers who have been
10 killed in the line of duty.
11

12 4. This act shall take effect immediately.
13
14

15 STATEMENT
16

17 This bill would designate July 30th of each year as “Corrections
18 Officers Day” in New Jersey to recognize and honor corrections
19 officers for their hard-work and continuous efforts to keep the
20 residents of New Jersey safe by protecting the rights of the public to
21 be safeguarded against criminal activity. To fulfill this
22 responsibility, corrections officers are responsible for supervising
23 and rehabilitating inmates in their care to ensure these individuals
24 are capable of making a positive contribution to society upon their
25 release from correctional facilities.

26 In an effort to carry out their responsibilities, corrections officers
27 are continuously exposed to dangerous situations that can result in
28 the loss of life. Fred Baker was one of several corrections officers
29 who sacrificed his life to protect the public interest. The heroic
30 efforts of Senior Corrections Officer Baker and numerous others
31 who lost their lives in the line of duty will forever remain in the
32 hearts and minds of their family members, as well as the citizens of
33 New Jersey who are encouraged to honor, cherish and remember the
34 sacrifices these individuals made on their behalf.

ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 481

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 18, 2012

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 481.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 481 designates July 30th of each year as “Corrections Officer Day” in New Jersey to recognize and honor all corrections officers for their hard-work and continuous efforts to keep the residents of New Jersey safe.

Supervising and overseeing criminals incarcerated in correctional facilities is a stressful and dangerous responsibility. Corrections officers work under demanding conditions, daily facing situations which threaten their personal safety and well-being.

On July 30, 1997, Senior Corrections Officer Fred Baker was brutally stabbed to death by an inmate at Bayside State Prison in Leesburg. Officer Baker’s sacrifice symbolizes the commitment and devotion of all corrections officers, not just those who have paid the ultimate price.

It is altogether fitting and appropriate to honor all corrections officers by designating July 30th each year, the anniversary of Officer Baker’s tragic and brutal death in the line of duty, as “Corrections Officer Day” in the State of New Jersey.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2012-2013 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments:

- (1) name the bill “Fred Baker’s Law;
- (2) make a technical change to the name of the day; and
- (3) clarify and emphasize that the choice of July 30th as the day to annually recognize and honor all corrections officers, not just those who have paid the ultimate price, is the anniversary of the 1997 brutal and tragic death of Senior Corrections Officer Fred Baker in the line of duty.

SENATE, No. 2126

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 25, 2012

Sponsored by:

Senator JEFF VAN DREW

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

SYNOPSIS

Fred Baker's Law; establishes July 30th of each year as "Corrections Officer Day."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT designated as Fred Baker’s Law and establishing July 30th of
2 each year as “Corrections Officer Day” in New Jersey to
3 recognize all corrections officers and to honor those who have
4 been killed in the line of duty.

5
6 **WHEREAS**, The operation of correctional facilities represents a crucial
7 component of the criminal justice system in the United States, and
8 correctional personnel play a vital role in protecting the rights of the
9 public to be safeguarded from criminal activity; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Corrections officers in the State of New Jersey oversee the
11 State’s correctional facilities and are responsible for the care,
12 custody, and maintenance of more than 25,000 inmates charged to
13 their care; and

14 **WHEREAS**, To carry out their responsibilities, corrections officers
15 work under demanding circumstances and face danger in their daily
16 work lives, which sometimes results in the loss of life; and

17 **WHEREAS**, On July 30th, 1997, Senior Corrections Officer Fred Baker
18 paid the ultimate price when he was brutally stabbed to death by an
19 inmate at Bayside State Prison in Leesburg, Cumberland County;
20 and

21 **WHEREAS**, In addition to Senior Corrections Officer Fred Baker,
22 numerous New Jersey corrections officers have lost their lives in
23 the line of duty; and

24 **WHEREAS**, In 1984, former President Ronald Regan signed
25 Proclamation 5187, which designated the first week in May as
26 “National Correctional Officers Week” in honor of corrections
27 officers who put their lives on the line every day to protect the
28 public from dangerous criminals and to help prisoners work toward
29 becoming productive members of society; and

30 **WHEREAS**, In 1996, Congress expanded and renamed this special
31 week “National Correctional Officers and Employees Week” in
32 recognition of all those employed with city, state and federal
33 correctional departments; and

34 **WHEREAS**, In accordance with the federal government’s recognition of
35 the indispensable contributions that corrections officers make every
36 day to protect our citizens from harm, it is proper and befitting for
37 the State of New Jersey to honor all corrections officers, not only
38 those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in upholding their duty
39 to the public here in New Jersey; and

40 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and appropriate to annually designate
41 July 30th, the anniversary of Senior Corrections Officer Frank
42 Baker’s tragic and brutal death in the line of duty, as “Corrections
43 Officer Day” in the State of New Jersey; now, therefore,

44
45 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
46 of New Jersey:

47
48 1. July 30th of each year shall be designated as “Corrections
49 Officer Day” in the State of New Jersey in recognition of the

1 dedicated service corrections officers have rendered to their fellow
2 citizens.

3

4 2. The Governor shall issue annually a proclamation
5 designating July 30th of each year as “Corrections Officer Day,” and
6 with the Legislature call upon all citizens of the State and all other
7 public and private agencies and organizations to celebrate
8 “Corrections Officer Day” by appropriate observance.

9

10 3. The Governor shall direct the staff at the State’s correctional
11 facilities to fly the flag of the United States and the State flag at
12 half-staff in honor of all those corrections officers who have been
13 killed in the line of duty.

14

15 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

16

17

18

STATEMENT

19

20 This bill designates July 30th of each year as “Corrections Officer
21 Day” in New Jersey to recognize and honor all corrections officers
22 for their hard-work and continuous efforts to keep the residents of
23 New Jersey safe.

24 Supervising and overseeing criminals incarcerated in correctional
25 facilities is a stressful and dangerous responsibility. Corrections
26 officers work under demanding conditions, daily facing situations
27 which threaten their personal safety and well-being.

28 On July 30, 1997, Senior Corrections Officer Fred Baker was
29 brutally stabbed to death by an inmate at Bayside State Prison in
30 Leesburg. Officer Baker’s sacrifice symbolizes the commitment
31 and devotion of all corrections officers, not just those who have
32 paid the ultimate price.

33 It is altogether fitting and appropriate to honor all corrections
34 officers by designating July 30th each year, the anniversary of
35 Officer Baker’s tragic and brutal death in the line of duty, as
36 “Corrections Officer Day” in the State of New Jersey.