

40A:14-153

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 40A:14-153

(Police-medals awarded by service organizations-allow officer-to wear without additional authorization)

LAWS OF: 1984

CHAPTER: 229

Bill No: A2370

Sponsor(s): Zangari and others

Date Introduced: July 30, 1984

Committee: Assembly: Sept. 13, 1984

Senate: Sept. 20, 1984

Amended during passage: Yes

Substituted for S2080 (not attached since identical to A2370)

Date of Passage: Assembly: September 20, 1984

Senate:

Date of Approval: December 28, 1984

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes (Below)

Committee statement: Assembly No

Senate No

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: Yes

Message on Signing: ~~No~~ Yes

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

Sponsors' statement:

This bill provides that medals awarded police offices by services organizations such as the Fraternal Order of Police or Policemen's Benevolent Association shall not require authorization by the governing body or a superior officer to be worn.

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ASSEMBLY, No. 2370

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JULY 30, 1984

By Assemblymen ZANGARI, FOY, MARKERT, PALAIA, MUZIANI,
KLINE, HENDRICKSON, CHARLES, PANKOK, SCHWARTZ,
PATERNITI, DEVERIN, LONG, MARSELLA, BOCCHINI,
S. ADUBATO, VISOTCKY and PELLY

AN ACT concerning awards to members and officers of police
departments and amending N. J. S. 40A:14-153.

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

1 1. N. J. S. 40A:14-153 is amended to read as follows:

2 40A:14-153. Whenever an award shall be made to a member or
3 officer of the police department or force for heroic or meritorious
4 service by a **national or Statewide police* service organization*
5 **or** a governmental or voluntary agency, a record of such award
6 shall be made by the chief or other person in charge of the depart-
7 ment or force of which the recipient is a member or officer, and it
8 shall constitute part of his service record. If the recipient receives
9 a bar, *medal* or other similar device representing said award which
10 conveniently can be worn, upon authorization, it shall be worn above
11 *or opposite* the police badge, *whichever is appropriate. Medals*
12 *awarded by ***[service organizations such as]*** the Fraternal Order*
13 *of Police *Grand Lodge, the Fraternal Order of Police New Jersey*
14 *State Lodge* or *the New Jersey State* Policemen's Benevolent*
15 *Association shall not require authorization to be worn. Unautho-*
16 *rized persons shall not wear any such bar or device or imitation*
17 *thereof.*

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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 printed in italics *thus* is new matter.

Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:

*—Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recom-
mendations October 18, 1984.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2370

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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By Assemblymen ZANGARI, FOY, MARKERT, PALAIA, MUZIANI,
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3 officer of the police department or force for heroic or meritorious
4 service by a *service organization, a governmental or voluntary*
5 *agency, a record of such award shall be made by the chief or other*
6 *person in charge of the department or force of which the recipient*
7 *is a member or officer, and it shall constitute part of his service*
8 *record. If the recipient receives a bar, medal or other similar*
9 *device representing said award which conveniently can be worn,*
10 *upon authorization, it shall be worn above or opposite the police*
11 *badge, whichever is appropriate. Medals awarded by service orga-*
12 *nizations such as the Fraternal Order of Police or Policemen's*
13 *Benevolent Association shall not require authorization to be worn.*
14 Unauthorized persons shall not wear any such bar or device or
15 imitation thereof.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill provides that medals awarded police officers by service organizations such as the Fraternal Order of Police or Policemen's Benevolent Association shall not require authorization by the governing body or a superior officer to be worn.

Matter printed in italics thus is new matter.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

October 18, 1984

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 2370

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 2370 with my objections, for reconsideration.

The purpose of this bill is to provide that medals awarded to police officers by service organizations such as the Fraternal Order of Police or the Policemen's Benevolent Association shall not require authorization by the governing body of the municipality or a superior officer to be worn.

Police officers should be recognized for acts of heroism or meritorious service. These officers provide an invaluable service to the State in safeguarding our communities. Often they place their lives on the line in the call of duty. Recognition by way of presenting medals for heroism or meritorious service is one way we can demonstrate our appreciation to these officers.

While I encourage recognition of these officers, the wearing of medals on a uniform should be restricted to those awards presented by governmental body or some other valid police-related service organization. As drafted, the bill would allow an award from any service organization to be included in the officer's official record while the statement to the bill provides that it was the intent of the sponsor to allow awards to be worn which were presented by service organizations such as the Fraternal Order of Police or the Policemen's Benevolent Association. If this is the sponsor's intent, then the bill should clearly state that the awards by service organizations which may be worn are those which are issued by police-related service organizations. I propose amending the bill to clarify that only awards from a national or Statewide police service organization shall be made part of a police officer's official record, and that awards from the national or State Fraternal Order of Police or Policemen's Benevolent Association shall not require authorization to be worn.

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 2370 for reconsideration and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 1, Section 1, Line 4:

After "by a" INSERT "national or Statewide police"

After "organization," INSERT "or"

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

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Page 1, Section 1, Lines 11 & 12:

On lines 11 & 12 DELETE "service organizations such as"; on line 12
after "Police" INSERT " - Grand Lodge, the Fraternal Order of Police -
New Jersey State Lodge" and after "or" INSERT "the New Jersey State"

Respectfully,

/s/ Thomas H. Kean
GOVERNOR

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ W. Cary Edwards
Chief Counsel

Vetoed 2-4-85

BILLS SIGNED
PAGE TWO
DECEMBER 31, 1984

A-2370, sponsored by Assemblyman Jimmy Zangari, D-Essex, which permits police officers to wear, without local department authorization, medals awarded by a service organization.

The bill was conditionally vetoed by the Governor to apply only to medals awarded by police-oriented service organizations.

A-815, sponsored by Assemblyman Thomas W. Long, D-Union, which provides counties with a first year budget cap exemption for increased costs associated with the addition of new beds to a county nursing home. The bill permits the county to expend the funds necessary for new beds for the year in which they first occur.

A-2491, sponsored by Assemblyman Garabed Haytaian, R-Warren, which extends until December 31, 1986, an exemption to the cap law for money expended as matching funds for any State or Federal aid program, and any amounts they receive from State, Federal or other sources as reimbursement of a local expense.

A-2893, sponsored by Assemblyman Joseph D. Patero, D-Somerset, which provides a one-year cap adjustment for municipalities that begin providing garbage collection service for residents in response to a State-ordered closure of their municipal landfill.

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