

2C: 39-13

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 2C:39-13

(Body vest - use during commission of crime is  
crime of 3rd degree)

LAWS OF: 1983

CHAPTER: 152

Bill No: S1740

Sponsor(s): O'Connor and Rodgers

Date Introduced: Sept. 23, 1982

Committee: Assembly: Judiciary, Law, Public Safety and Defense

Senate: Judiciary

Amended during passage: // No

Date of Passage: Assembly: April 11, 1983

Senate: Nov. 8, 1982

Date of Approval: April 22, 1983

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes //

Committee statement: Assembly Yes //

Senate Yes //

Fiscal Note: // No

Veto Message: // No

Message on Signing: Yes //

Following were printed:

Reports: // No

Hearings: // No

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152

83

4-22-83

SENATE, No. 1740

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 23, 1982

By Senators O'CONNOR and RODGERS

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

AN ACT concerning the wearing and use of a body vest during the commission of certain crimes and supplementing Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

1 1. Unlawful Use of Body Vests. A person is guilty of a crime  
2 of the third degree if he uses or wears a body vest while engaged in  
3 the commission of, or an attempt to commit, or flight after com-  
4 mitting or attempting to commit murder, manslaughter, robbery,  
5 sexual assault, arson, burglary, kidnapping, criminal escape or  
6 assault under N. J. S. 2C:12-1b.

7 As used in this section, "body vest" means bullet-resistant body  
8 armor which is intended to provide ballistic and trauma protection.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

Law enforcement authorities have noted an alarming increase in the use of body vests in the commission of violent crimes. This bill is intended to increase safety for law enforcement officers and innocent bystanders alike by establishing as criminal offense the wearing or use of a body vest during the commission of serious crimes which cause or threaten bodily injury.

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY, LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
DEFENSE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
**SENATE, No. 1740**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JANUARY 20, 1983

Senate Bill No. 1740 would establish as a separate criminal offense the unlawful wearing or use of a body vest during the commission of the following offenses: murder, manslaughter, robbery, sexual assault, arson, burglary, kidnapping, escape or aggravated assault. According to the sponsor's statement, law enforcement authorities have noted an alarming increase in the use of body vests in the commission of violent crimes and Senate Bill No. 1740 is intended to increase safety for law enforcement officers and innocent bystanders alike.

The unlawful wearing of a body vest would be classified as a crime of the third degree. Crimes of the third degree are punishable by between three and five years imprisonment and/or a fine of up to \$7,500.00.

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SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1740

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 13, 1982

Senate Bill No. 1740 would establish as a separate criminal offense the unlawful wearing or use of a body vest during the commission of the following offenses: murder, manslaughter, robbery, sexual assault, arson, burglary, kidnapping, escape or aggravated assault. Law enforcement authorities have noted an alarming increase in the use of body vests in the commission of violent crimes and Senate Bill No. 1740 is intended to increase safety for law enforcement officers and innocent bystanders alike.

The unlawful wearing of a body vest would be classified as a crime of the third degree. Crimes of the third degree are punishable by between three and five years imprisonment and/or a fine of up to \$7,500.00.

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CONTACT: PAUL WOLCOTT

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1983

185 W. State Street  
Trenton, N. J.

Governor Thomas H. Kean has signed the following bills:

A-346, sponsored by Assemblyman William E. Flynn, (D-Middlesex), which authorizes municipal courts to issue consent orders directing indigent defendants who have defaulted on fines or restitution to participate in municipal work programs.

A-3260, sponsored by Assemblyman D. Bennett Mazur, (D-Bergen), which clarifies the new property tax exemption for newly constructed single family homes applies only to those homes for which construction began on or after December 29, 1982, the date of enactment of the new property tax exemption.

S-1319, sponsored by State Senator Frank E. Rodgers, (D-Hudson), which increases the interest charged on late payments to the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission from the present 6 to 12 percent.

S-1740, sponsored by State Senator Edward T. O'Connor, Jr., (D-Hudson), which makes the wearing or use of a bullet-resistant body armor during the commission of serious crimes a criminal offense.

S-1453, sponsored by State Senator John H. Ewing, (R-Somerset), which requires lending institutions to make student loan payment checks payable jointly to the student and the college, or, in the case of foreign institutions, the student and a parent. The bill is intended to prevent the use of student loan funds for personal purposes.

A-1226, sponsored by Assemblyman John T. Hendrickson, Jr., (R-Ocean), which excludes retirement communities owned by non-profit corporations from inspection under the Hotel and Multiple Dwelling Law and provides for a self-inspection program in lieu of State inspections.

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