

52:17B-9.6 to 52:17B-9.16

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 52:17B-9.6 to 52:17B-9.16

Missing Persons Bureau - est.  
in Dept. of Law & Public Safety)

LAWS OF: 1983

CHAPTER: 467

Bill No: A1121/A1647

Sponsor(s): Zimmer

Date Introduced: March 11, 1982

Committee: Assembly: Judiciary, Law, Public Safety & Defense;  
Revenue, Finance and Appropriations

Senate: State Government, Federal & Interstate Relations &  
Veterans Affairs, Revenue, Finance & Appropriations

Amended during passage: Yes Assembly Committee substitute (OCR)  
enacted. Amendments during passage  
denoted by asterisks. Substituted  
for S1971

Date of Passage: Assembly: February 28, 1983 Re-enacted 12-8-83

Senate: September 6, 1983 Re-enacted 1-9-84

Date of Approval: January 12, 1984

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee statement: Assembly Yes 1-20-83 & 2-14-83

Senate Yes 6-30-83 & 5-23-83

Fiscal Note: Yes 7-30-82

Veto Message: ~~No~~ Yes

Message on Signing: ~~No~~ Yes

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**ASSEMBLY, Nos. 1121 and 1647**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

ADOPTED JANUARY 27, 1983

By Assemblyman W. BROWN and Assemblywoman WRIGHT

AN ACT creating a Commission on Missing Persons and a Missing Persons Unit in the Department of Law and Public Safety *\*and making an appropriation therefor\**.

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

1 1. The Legislature finds that more than 10,000 "missing persons"  
2 reports are filed in New Jersey each year and that hundreds of  
3 individual reports are turned into local police departments each  
4 week, and that the local police departments have neither the re-  
5 sources nor the experience to carry out a thorough missing persons  
6 investigation. The Legislature further finds that, without the exper-  
7 tise developed by experienced missing persons investigators, au-  
8 thorities may inadvertently pass over a report in which the missing  
9 person has actually been kidnapped or has met foul play. Federal  
10 and State law enforcement officials have recommended that missing  
11 persons cases in New Jersey could be better handled by a Statewide  
12 effort specializing in this matter.

1 2. There is established within the Department of Law and Public  
2 Safety in the Division of State Police a Missing Persons Unit.  
3 The Superintendent of State Police shall appoint a supervisor of  
4 the unit with the rank and pay of at least a lieutenant in the New  
5 Jersey State Police, any other personnel, with the equivalent rank  
6 and pay of their positions in the New Jersey State Police, and any  
7 civilian personnel, including local law enforcement personnel, which  
8 he deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this act. All  
9 persons assigned to the Missing Persons Unit shall devote their  
10 full-time duties to carrying out the provisions of this act.

1 3. In addition to any other powers and duties invested in it by  
2 law or by the Attorney General, the unit shall:

**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 November 21, 1983.

- 3 a. Coordinate, file and investigate all missing persons cases in  
4 this State, and cooperate with local law enforcement officials and  
5 federal law enforcement officials in the creation of a centralized  
6 office on missing persons in this State;
- 7 b. Provide staff support for the work of the Commission on  
8 Missing Persons;
- 9 c. Collect and maintain data on missing persons and unidentified  
10 bodies in this State and throughout the United States;
- 11 d. Coordinate efforts with other states and with the federal  
12 government in the investigation of cases involving missing persons  
13 or unidentified bodies;
- 14 e. Provide specialized training to law enforcement officers and  
15 medical examiners in this State, in conjunction with the Police  
16 Training Commission, which would enable them to more efficiently  
17 handle the tracing of missing persons and unidentified bodies on  
18 the local level;
- 19 f. Employ the services of local law enforcement agencies or other  
20 social or governmental agencies.
- 1 4. To assist and advise the Attorney General in the administra-  
2 tion of this act there is created within the Department of Law and  
3 Public Safety, a 16-member Commission on Missing Persons, which  
4 shall consist of the following persons:
- 5 a. The Attorney General, the Superintendent of State Police,  
6 the State Medical Examiner and the Special Agent-in-Charge of  
7 the State of New Jersey for the Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
8 ex officio, or their designated representatives;
- 9 b. Four public members, two to be appointed by the Governor,  
10 one to be appointed by the President of the Senate and one to be  
11 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and
- 12 c. Six law enforcement officers to be appointed by the Governor;  
13 each representing a different county of this State. For the purposes  
14 of this subsection, "law enforcement officer" means a permanent,  
15 full-time, active member in good standing of a law enforcement  
16 agency of a municipality or county in this State; but shall not  
17 mean a member of the State Police.
- 18 d. Two members from social service agencies to be appointed by  
19 the Governor.
- 1 5. a. The designation of a chairman and two vice-chairmen of  
2 the commission, who shall be chosen pursuant to subsection e. of  
3 this section, shall be made by the Governor after consultation with  
4 the Attorney General.
- 5 b. Initial appointments to the commission shall be made by the  
6 Governor, the Senate President and the Speaker of the General

7 Assembly within 90 days after enactment of this act and shall be  
8 for the terms as follows:

9 (1) Three members listed in subsection b. of section 4 of this act  
10 for two years, except that the members appointed by the Senate  
11 President and the Speaker of the General Assembly shall serve  
12 terms concurrent with the term of the respective appointing  
13 authority.

14 (2) One member listed in subsection b. of section 4 of this act  
15 for three years.

16 (3) Two members listed in subsection c. of section 4 of this act  
17 for one year.

18 (4) One member listed in subsection c. of section 4 of this act  
19 for two years.

20 (5) One member listed in subsection c. of section 4 of this act  
21 for three years.

22 (6) One member listed in subsection c. of section 4 of this act  
23 for four years.

24 (7) One member listed in subsection c. of section 4 of this act  
25 for five years.

26 (8) One member listed in subsection d. of section 4 of this act  
27 for three years.

28 (9) One member listed in subsection d. of section 4 of this act  
29 for four years.

30 c. After the expiration of the initial appointments, all members  
31 listed in subsections b., c. and d. of section 4 of this act who have  
32 been appointed by the Governor shall be appointed for terms of  
33 five years each, except that no member shall serve more than two  
34 five-year terms. The members appointed by the Senate President  
35 and the Speaker of the General Assembly shall serve terms con-  
36 current with the term of the respective appointing authority. If a  
37 member listed in subsection c. of section 4 of this act is not re-  
38 appointed upon the expiration of this member's term, the next  
39 member to be appointed shall not represent the same county, but  
40 shall represent a county which is not represented on the commission  
41 at the time of the appointment. Membership on the commission for  
42 all members appointed pursuant to subsections c. and d. of section 4  
43 shall be contingent upon their occupational status not changing for  
44 the duration of their appointed term. All members of the commis-  
45 sion shall remain in office until a successor has been appointed.

46 d. Appointments to fill vacancies on the commission shall be for  
47 the unexpired term of the member to be replaced.

48 e. The Governor shall designate one member as chairman and  
49 two members as vice-chairmen of the commission from among the

50 members listed in subsection c. of section 4 of this act; each of  
51 whom shall serve in the designated capacity throughout the mem-  
52 ber's entire term and until a successor is appointed and qualified.  
53 The chairman and vice-chairmen shall not serve in their capacities  
54 for more than five years. The chairman shall be the chief executive  
55 officer of the commission.

56 f. A member of the commission may be removed from office by  
57 the appointing authority for misconduct in office, willful neglect  
58 of duty, or other conduct evidencing unfitness for the office or for  
59 incompetence.

1 6. No member of the commission shall be compensated for the  
2 term of service, but all members shall be entitled to reimbursement  
3 for expenses actually incurred in the performance of duties, in-  
4 cluding expenses of travel outside of the State.

1 7. The commission may employ the secretarial and clerical  
2 personnel it deems necessary. The commission may employ the  
3 services of the Attorney General's office which shall represent the  
4 commission in any proceeding to which it is a party, and shall  
5 render legal advice to the commission upon its request. The com-  
6 mission may contract for the services of other professional, techni-  
7 cal and operational personnel and consultants whose assistance is  
8 essential to the commission's performance of its responsibilities  
9 under this act.

1 8. The Commission on Missing Persons in conjunction with the  
2 Missing Persons Unit shall have the general responsibility to:

3 a. Review information, data, reports, statistics or other materials  
4 collected by the Missing Persons Unit necessary to carry out the  
5 purpose of this act;

6 b. Prepare a comprehensive State-action plan relating to the  
7 problem of missing persons and unidentified bodies, on behalf of  
8 the Governor, to be submitted to the Legislature within two years  
9 of the effective date of this act, and to update this plan thereafter  
10 on a yearly basis, by March 1;

11 c. Recommend to the Legislature other legislation that may be  
12 necessary to carry out the purposes of this act;

13 d. Apply for, contract for, receive and expend for its purposes or  
14 the purposes of the Missing Persons Unit any grants, gifts or  
15 contributions of money or property from the federal government,  
16 or any other source, public or private, subject to the approval of  
17 the Attorney General;

18 e. Perform the other duties that are necessary to carry out the  
19 purposes of this act.

1 9. A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for

2 the transaction of any business, the performance of any duty, or for  
3 the exercise of any powers.

1 10. Except as expressly provided in this act, nothing herein  
2 contained shall limit the powers, rights, duties or responsibilities of  
3 various law enforcement agencies of this State, or any of its politi-  
4 cal subdivisions.

1 11. A monetary donation made available to the State through  
2 the Missing Persons Unit or the Commission on Missing Persons  
3 which specifies the purchase of items or materials to be used for  
4 the purposes of this act or any donation of items or materials which  
5 meet the requirements of the Division of State Police, shall be  
6 accepted by the Attorney General on behalf of the State and dis-  
7 tributed or appropriated for law enforcement and specifically used  
8 for the purposes of this act. A monetary donation shall be included  
9 in the annual appropriation bill and distributed in the same manner  
10 as other appropriations.

1 \*12. *There is appropriated to the Department of Law and Public*  
2 *Safety from the General Fund \$450,000.00 to effectuate the purposes*  
3 *of this act.\**

1 \*~~[12.]~~\* \*13.\* This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after  
2 enactment.

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ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
ASSEMBLY, Nos. 1121 and 1647

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

ADOPTED JANUARY 27, 1983

By Assemblyman W. BROWN and Assemblywoman WRIGHT

AN ACT creating a Commission on Missing Persons and a Missing  
Persons Unit in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

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

1 1. The Legislature finds that more than 10,000 "missing persons"  
2 reports are filed in New Jersey each year and that hundreds of  
3 individual reports are turned into local police departments each  
4 week, and that the local police departments have neither the re-  
5 sources nor the experience to carry out a thorough missing persons  
6 investigation. The Legislature further finds that, without the exper-  
7 tise developed by experienced missing persons investigators, au-  
8 thorities may inadvertently pass over a report in which the missing  
9 person has actually been kidnapped or has met foul play. Federal  
10 and State law enforcement officials have recommended that missing  
11 persons cases in New Jersey could be better handled by a Statewide  
12 effort specializing in this matter.

1 2. There is established within the Department of Law and Public  
2 Safety in the Division of State Police a Missing Persons Unit.  
3 The Superintendent of State Police shall appoint a supervisor of  
4 the unit with the rank and pay of at least a lieutenant in the New  
5 Jersey State Police, any other personnel, with the equivalent rank  
6 and pay of their positions in the New Jersey State Police, and any  
7 civilian personnel, including local law enforcement personnel, which  
8 he deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this act. All  
9 persons assigned to the Missing Persons Unit shall devote their  
10 full-time duties to carrying out the provisions of this act.

1 3. In addition to any other powers and duties invested in it by  
2 law or by the Attorney General, the unit shall:

3 a. Coordinate, file and investigate all missing persons cases in  
4 this State, and cooperate with local law enforcement officials and  
5 federal law enforcement officials in the creation of a centralized  
6 office on missing persons in this State;

7 b. Provide staff support for the work of the Commission on  
8 Missing Persons;

9 c. Collect and maintain data on missing persons and unidentified  
10 bodies in this State and throughout the United States;

11 d. Coordinate efforts with other states and with the federal  
12 government in the investigation of cases involving missing persons  
13 or unidentified bodies;

14 e. Provide specialized training to law enforcement officers and  
15 medical examiners in this State, in conjunction with the Police  
16 Training Commission, which would enable them to more efficiently  
17 handle the tracing of missing persons and unidentified bodies on  
18 the local level;

19 f. Employ the services of local law enforcement agencies or other  
20 social or governmental agencies.

1 4. To assist and advise the Attorney General in the administra-  
2 tion of this act there is created within the Department of Law and  
3 Public Safety, a 16-member Commission on Missing Persons, which  
4 shall consist of the following persons:

5 a. The Attorney General, the Superintendent of State Police,  
6 the State Medical Examiner and the Special Agent-in-Charge of  
7 the State of New Jersey for the Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
8 ex officio, or their designated representatives;

9 b. Four public members, two to be appointed by the Governor,  
10 one to be appointed by the President of the Senate and one to be  
11 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and

12 c. Six law enforcement officers to be appointed by the Governor;  
13 each representing a different county of this State. For the purposes  
14 of this subsection, "law enforcement officer" means a permanent,  
15 full-time, active member in good standing of a law enforcement  
16 agency of a municipality or county in this State; but shall not  
17 mean a member of the State Police.

18 d. Two members from social service agencies to be appointed by  
19 the Governor.

1 5. a. The designation of a chairman and two vice-chairmen of  
2 the commission, who shall be chosen pursuant to subsection e. of  
3 this section, shall be made by the Governor after consultation with  
4 the Attorney General.

5 b. Initial appointments to the commission shall be made by the  
6 Governor, the Senate President and the Speaker of the General



7 Assembly within 90 days after enactment of this act and shall be  
8 for the terms as follows:

9 (1) Three members listed in subsection b. of section 4 of this act  
10 for two years, except that the members appointed by the Senate  
11 President and the Speaker of the General Assembly shall serve  
12 terms concurrent with the term of the respective appointing  
13 authority.

14 (2) One member listed in subsection b. of section 4 of this act  
15 for three years.

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19 for two years.

20 (5) One member listed in subsection c. of section 4 of this act  
21 for three years.

22 (6) One member listed in subsection c. of section 4 of this act  
23 for four years.

24 (7) One member listed in subsection c. of section 4 of this act  
25 for five years.

26 (8) One member listed in subsection d. of section 4 of this act  
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29 for four years.

30 c. After the expiration of the initial appointments, all members  
31 listed in subsections b., c. and d. of section 4 of this act who have  
32 been appointed by the Governor shall be appointed for terms of  
33 five years each, except that no member shall serve more than two  
34 five-year terms. The members appointed by the Senate President  
35 and the Speaker of the General Assembly shall serve terms con-  
36 current with the term of the respective appointing authority. If a  
37 member listed in subsection c. of section 4 of this act is not re-  
38 appointed upon the expiration of this member's term, the next  
39 member to be appointed shall not represent the same county, but  
40 shall represent a county which is not represented on the commission  
41 at the time of the appointment. Membership on the commission for  
42 all members appointed pursuant to subsections c. and d. of section 4  
43 shall be contingent upon their occupational status not changing for  
44 the duration of their appointed term. All members of the commis-  
45 sion shall remain in office until a successor has been appointed.

46 d. Appointments to fill vacancies on the commission shall be for  
47 the unexpired term of the member to be replaced.

48 e. The Governor shall designate one member as chairman and  
49 two members as vice-chairmen of the commission from among the

50 members listed in subsection c. of section 4 of this act; each of  
51 whom shall serve in the designated capacity throughout the mem-  
52 ber's entire term and until a successor is appointed and qualified.  
53 The chairman and vice-chairmen shall not serve in their capacities  
54 for more than five years. The chairman shall be the chief executive  
55 officer of the commission.

56 f. A member of the commission may be removed from office by  
57 the appointing authority for misconduct in office, willful neglect  
58 of duty, or other conduct evidencing unfitness for the office or for  
59 incompetence.

1 6. No member of the commission shall be compensated for the  
2 term of service, but all members shall be entitled to reimbursement  
3 for expenses actually incurred in the performance of duties, in-  
4 cluding expenses of travel outside of the State.

1 7. The commission may employ the secretarial and clerical  
2 personnel it deems necessary. The commission may employ the  
3 services of the Attorney General's office which shall represent the  
4 commission in any proceeding to which it is a party, and shall  
5 render legal advice to the commission upon its request. The com-  
6 mission may contract for the services of other professional, techni-  
7 cal and operational personnel and consultants whose assistance is  
8 essential to the commission's performance of its responsibilities  
9 under this act.

1 8. The Commission on Missing Persons in conjunction with the  
2 Missing Persons Unit shall have the general responsibility to:

3 a. Review information, data, reports, statistics or other materials  
4 collected by the Missing Persons Unit necessary to carry out the  
5 purpose of this act;

6 b. Prepare a comprehensive State-action plan relating to the  
7 problem of missing persons and unidentified bodies, on behalf of  
8 the Governor, to be submitted to the Legislature within two years  
9 of the effective date of this act, and to update this plan thereafter  
10 on a yearly basis, by March 1;

11 c. Recommend to the Legislature other legislation that may be  
12 necessary to carry out the purposes of this act;

13 d. Apply for, contract for, receive and expend for its purposes or  
14 the purposes of the Missing Persons Unit any grants, gifts or  
15 contributions of money or property from the federal government,  
16 or any other source, public or private, subject to the approval of  
17 the Attorney General;

18 e. Perform the other duties that are necessary to carry out the  
19 purposes of this act.

1 9. A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for

2 the transaction of any business, the performance of any duty, or for  
3 the exercise of any powers.

1 10. Except as expressly provided in this act, nothing herein  
2 contained shall limit the powers, rights, duties or responsibilities of  
3 various law enforcement agencies of this State, or any of its politi-  
4 cal subdivisions.

1 11. A monetary donation made available to the State through  
2 the Missing Persons Unit or the Commission on Missing Persons  
3 which specifies the purchase of items or materials to be used for  
4 the purposes of this act or any donation of items or materials which  
5 meet the requirements of the Division of State Police, shall be  
6 accepted by the Attorney General on behalf of the State and dis-  
7 tributed or appropriated for law enforcement and specifically used  
8 for the purposes of this act. A monetary donation shall be included  
9 in the annual appropriation bill and distributed in the same manner  
10 as other appropriations.

1 12. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after enactment.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1121

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

INTRODUCED MARCH 11, 1982

By Assemblymen BROWN, ZANGARI, Assemblywoman GARVIN,  
Assemblymen McENROE and THOMPSON

Referred to Committee on Judiciary, Law, Public Safety  
and Defense

AN ACT creating a Bureau of Missing Persons in the Division of  
State Police in the Department of Law and Public Safety and  
supplementing Title 53 of the Revised Statutes.

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

1 1. The Legislature finds that more than 10,000 "missing persons"  
2 reports are filed in New Jersey each year and that hundreds  
3 of individual reports are turned into local police departments  
4 each week, and that the local police departments have neither  
5 the resources nor the experience to carry out a thorough missing  
6 persons investigation. The Legislature further finds that, without  
7 the expertise developed by experienced missing persons investiga-  
8 gators, authorities may inadvertently pass over a report in which  
9 the missing person has actually been kidnapped or has met foul  
10 play. Federal and State law enforcement officials have recom-  
11 mended that missing persons cases in New Jersey could be better  
12 handled by a Statewide bureau specializing in those reports.

1 2. There is created within the Department of Law and Public  
2 Safety in the Division of State Police a Bureau of Missing  
3 Persons. The Superintendent of State Police shall appoint a super-  
4 visor of the Bureau of Missing Persons, with the rank and pay of  
5 a lieutenant in the New Jersey State Police, and such other person-  
6 nel, with the equivalent rank and pay of their positions in the New  
7 Jersey State Police, and such civilian personnel as he may deem  
8 necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

1 3. It shall be the duty of the Bureau of Missing Persons to co-  
2 ordinate, file and investigate all missing persons cases in this State,  
3 and to cooperate with local law enforcement officials in the creation  
4 of a centralized office on missing persons in this State.

1 4. The Attorney General may adopt and enforce such rules and  
2 regulations as are deemed necessary to carry out the provisions  
3 of this act.

1 5. All functions, powers and duties vested in any bureau, di-  
2 vision or any other agency concerning missing persons are trans-  
3 ferred to the Bureau of Missing Persons in the Division of State  
4 Police in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

1 6. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day following its  
2 enactment.

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#### STATEMENT

The unsolved murders of black children in Atlanta and the more than 10,000 missing persons reports filed each year in New Jersey are evidence that local law enforcement agencies need the assistance, expertise, and resources that could be provided by a State Police unit specializing in the investigation of missing persons.

The purpose of this bill is to create in the Division of State Police a Bureau of Missing Persons, which will coordinate and file in one centralized location all information pertaining to all persons reported missing in the State.

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ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY, LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY AND  
DEFENSE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
ASSEMBLY, Nos. 1121 and 1647

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JANUARY 20, 1983

The committee substitute would create both a unit within the Division of State Police to deal with missing persons and unidentified bodies, as is done in Assembly Bill No. 1121, and a commission to advise the Attorney General on matters dealing with missing persons, as is done in Assembly Bill No. 1647.

The Missing Persons Unit would be headed by a supervisor and have persons assigned to it who would devote their full-time duties to the work of the unit. The unit would coordinate and file in one centralized location all information pertaining to all persons reported missing in the State. The services of local law enforcement agencies could also possibly be employed by the unit to carry out its duties. In addition, the unit would coordinate efforts with other states and the federal government in investigating cases. The Missing Persons Commission would consist of 16 members, including the Attorney General, the Superintendent of State Police, the State Medical Examiner, and the Special Agent-in-Charge of the State of New Jersey for the FBI, or their designees, as ex officio members; two public members appointed by the Governor; two public members, one member appointed by the Senate President, one member appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; two persons from social service agencies; and six law enforcement officers appointed by the Governor, each from a different county. The Governor would designate a chairman and two vice-chairmen from among the six law enforcement officers.

The commission would be responsible for:

1. collecting data on missing persons and unidentified bodies;
2. assisting State and federal law enforcement agencies in investigating cases involving missing persons and unidentified bodies;
3. providing specialized training to law enforcement officers and medical examiners to help them handle these types of cases on the local level;
4. preparing a comprehensive, Statewide plan on how to deal with the problem, to be submitted to the Legislature within two years, and recommending other legislation that might be necessary to carry out the purposes of the bill;

5. receiving and expending grants, gifts or contributions.

According to a fiscal note prepared on Assembly Bill No. 1121, the Division of State Police estimates that creating a bureau on missing persons would cost \$308,070.00 for the first year; \$284,415.00 for the second year; and \$304,069.00 for the third year. The costs include staffing, space, and equipment. The commission would be advisory and not be compensated except for actual expenses incurred.

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ASSEMBLY REVENUE, FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**ASSEMBLY, Nos. 1121 and 1647**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 14, 1983

The Assembly Revenue, Finance and Appropriations Committee concurs with the statement from the Assembly Judiciary, Law, Public Safety and Defense Committee.



SENATE REVENUE, FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**ASSEMBLY, Nos. 1121 and 1647**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

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DATED: JUNE 30, 1983

The committee substitute creates a 16 member Commission on Missing Persons to advise the Attorney General on subject matters of missing persons and also creates a Missing Persons Unit in the Division of State Police.

The State Police Unit would be the centralized location for coordination and file information on missing persons. The commission's main responsibility is to prepare a comprehensive State plan of action relating to the problem of missing persons to be submitted to the Legislature within two years of the effective date of this act and subsequent yearly updates of same.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated costs for the Missing Persons Unit are \$308,000.00 in the start-up year, \$284,000.00 for the second year, and \$304,000.00 for the third year for staffing, space and equipment.

The commission is to be advisory in nature and not be compensated except for actual expenses incurred which are estimated at \$35,000.00 to \$50,000.00 for the 16 members, dependent on the number of meetings scheduled and actual clerical assistance needed.

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, FEDERAL AND  
INTERSTATE RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**ASSEMBLY, Nos. 1121 and 1647**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 23, 1983

The bill establishes a Missing Persons Unit within the Division of State Police and a 16-member Commission on Missing Persons to advise the Attorney General on matters dealing with missing persons.

The Missing Persons Unit would coordinate and file in one centralized location information pertaining to all persons reported missing in the State. The services of local law enforcement agencies may also be employed by the unit to carry out its duties. In addition, the unit would coordinate efforts with other states and the federal government in investigating cases.

The Missing Persons Commission would consist of 16 members, including the Attorney General, the Superintendent of State Police, the State Medical Examiner, and the Special Agent-in-Charge of the State of New Jersey for the FBI, or their designees, as ex officio members; four public members, two appointed by the Governor, one by the Senate President, and one by the Speaker of the General Assembly; two persons from social service agencies appointed by the Governor; and six law enforcement officers appointed by the Governor, each from a different county. The Governor would designate a chairman and two vice-chairmen from among the six law enforcement officers. The commission would prepare a comprehensive, Statewide plan on how to deal with the problem of missing persons. Such a plan shall be submitted to the Legislature within two years.

FISCAL NOTE TO  
ASSEMBLY, No. 1121  
**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JULY 30, 1982

Assembly Bill No. 1121, of 1982, would create a Bureau of Missing Persons, in the Division of State Police, which would coordinate and file in one centralized location all information pertaining to all persons reported missing in the State.

The Division of State Police estimate State costs as follows:

1st year .....	\$308,070.00
2nd year .....	\$284,415.00
3rd year .....	\$304,069.00

The costs include staffing, space and equipment. The division recommends the following for consideration as amendments to the bill: (a) the proposed "Bureau" should be a "Unit" in the Investigation Section under the Criminal Investigation Bureau; (b) a provision should be included mandating all police agencies to report all missing persons, and (c) a provision should be included mandating that each county medical examiner file a report on unidentified bodies to the State Medical Examiner's Office and the State Police Missing Persons Unit.

The Office of Legislative Services concurs.

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In compliance with written request received, there is hereby submitted a fiscal estimate for the above bill, pursuant to P. L. 1980, c. 67.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

November 21, 1983

ASSEMBLY BILL NOS. 1121 and 1647 ACS

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill Nos. 1121 and 1647 ACS with my objections, for reconsideration.

The purpose of this bill is to create both a unit within the Division of State Police to deal with missing persons and unidentified bodies, and a commission to advise the Attorney General on matters dealing with missing persons.

While I support the concept of this bill, the legislative history of this bill indicates that there will be a substantial cost associated with the creation of a missing persons unit and a commission, and yet, there is no appropriation contained in the bill. The Assembly Fiscal Note estimates the start-up costs in the first year to be \$308,000.00. This fiscal note; however, only estimates the start-up costs for the unit and not the commission. The committee statement of the Senate Revenue, Finance and Appropriations Committee reflects the same estimates for start-up costs for the unit and also places an estimated cost of the commission to be between \$35,000.00 and \$50,000.00. The Division of State Police concurs that the start-up costs for the unit will be approximately \$308,070.00; however, the Budget and Program Evaluation Office of the Department of Law and Public Safety estimates that the inclusion of the commission will require an additional cost of approximately \$150,000.00.

I am appalled that in these times of fiscal austerity that the Legislature would pass a bill creating a new unit in the Division of State Police and a new commission without including an appropriation to effectuate the purposes of the act. The Legislature is aware that they passed and I signed for fiscal year 1984, one of the tightest budgets in recent years and that only three departments received an increase over the previous fiscal year's appropriation. To enact this bill as is would require the Division of State Police to pay for the creation of the unit by taking funds from other State Police law enforcement accounts. The first decision of Attorney General Kimmelman in drafting his proposed FY 84 budget was to insure that resources were provided to preserve

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
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the vital services of the Division of State Police. The operations of the State Police are essential to the primary mission of the Department of Law and Public Safety which is to insure the safety and protection of the public. We have what I consider to be the best State Police organization in the country, and while I strongly support the concept of creating a Missing Persons Unit in the Division of State Police, I will not jeopardize the ability of the State Police to enforce the laws of this State or protect the public by placing increased responsibilities upon them without giving them the resources to carry out those new responsibilities. I cannot condone the actions of the Legislature in passing bills which will generate costs to the departments without providing an appropriation to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

Since this bill does not contain an appropriation for its implementation, I herewith return Assembly Bill Nos. 1121 and 1647 for reconsideration and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 1, Title, Line 2: After "Safety" INSERT "and making an appropriation therefor"

Page 5, Section 11, after line 10: INSERT new section: "12. There is appropriated to the Department of Law and Public Safety from the General Fund \$450,000.00 to effectuate the purposes of this act."

Page 5, Section 12, line 1: DELETE "12." INSERT "13."

Respectfully,

/s/ Thomas H. Kean

GOVERNOR

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ W. Cary Edwards

Chief Counsel

BILLS

Page Three

January 13, 1984

A-3172, sponsored by Assemblyman Robert C. Janiszewski and A-3173, sponsored by Assemblyman Karcher, which provide that a person who is employed or who has received a lay-off notice may enroll in a job training course at a public college (A-3172) or a county college (A-3173) without paying tuition, on a space available basis. The Governor recommended elimination of a provision in both bills which would have allowed such institutions to count persons enrolled under these bills in making their State aid calculations. The Governor noted that such provisions could substantially increase the school's State aid entitlement while not creating any extra costs for the school because of the space-available nature of the admittance policy, coupled with the \$20 registration fee the school would be entitled to charge under the bill.

A-1531, sponsored by Assemblyman William E. Flynn, D-Monmouth, which establishes a Residential Housing Management Board to regulate State-owned employee housing. The Governor made a series of recommendations for modification of the bill. A copy of the conditional veto message is available at the Press Office.

A-1121/A-1647, sponsored by Assemblyman Willie Brown, D-Essex and Assemblywoman Joan M. Wright, R-Bergen, which creates a Commission on Missing Persons and a Missing Persons Unit in the Department of Law and Public Safety. In his conditional veto message the Governor said he supports the concept of the bill, but criticized the Legislature for creating the unit but failing to provide an appropriation to fund its operation. He recommended an appropriation of \$450,000.

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