

52:17B-70
AND 71.3

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 52:17B-70 and 52:17B-71.3

COPY NO. 2

Laws of 1975 Chapter 163

Bill No. A94

Sponsor(s) Weidel & Foran

Date Introduced Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly Education

Senate Education

Amended during passage No

Date of passage: Assembly April 1, 1974

Senate April 17, 1975

Date of approval July 23, 1975

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes

Committee Statement: Assembly No

Senate Yes

Fiscal Note No

Veto message No

Message on signing No

Following were printed:

Reports No

Hearings No

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10/4/76

MAY 1977

CHAPTER 163 LAWS OF N. J. 1975
APPROVED 7-23-75

LAW AND ORDER
DO NOT REPEAL

ASSEMBLY, No. 94

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1974 SESSION

By Assemblymen WEIDEL and FORAN

AN ACT concerning police training and amending P. L. 1961, c. 56
and P. L. 1968, c. 265.

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

1 1. Section 5 of P. L. 1961, c. 56 (C. 52:17B-70) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 5. There is hereby established in the Department of Law and
4 Public Safety a Police Training Commission whose membership
5 shall consist of the following persons:

6 a. Two citizens of this State who shall be appointed by the Gov-
7 ernor with the advice and consent of the Senate for terms of 3
8 years commencing with the expiration of the terms of the citizen
9 members, other than the representative of the New Jersey Office
10 of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, now in office.

11 b. The president or other representative designated in accord-
12 ance with the bylaws of each of the following organizations: the
13 New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police; the New Jersey
14 State Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, Inc.; the New Jersey
15 State League of Municipalities; and the New Jersey State Lodge,
16 Fraternal Order of Police.

17 c. The Attorney General, the Superintendent of State Police,
18 **[and]** the Commissioner of Education, *and the Chancellor of*
19 *Higher Education*, ex officio, or when so designated by them, their
20 deputies.

21 d. The Special Agent in Charge of the State of New Jersey for
22 the Federal Bureau of Investigation or his designated representa-
23 tive.

1 2. Section 2 of P. L. 1968, c. 265 (C. 52:17B-71.3) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 2. "Policeman" as used herein shall mean any permanent full-

**EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill
is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

- 4 time active member of any police force or organization of any mu-
5 nicipality or county, or the *State Police*.
- 1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

The amendment to P. L. 1961, c. 56, s. 5 (C. 52:17B-70) adds to the current membership of the Police Training Commission the Chancellor of Higher Education. The expertise provided by a representative from higher education would prove invaluable to a commission whose function is to provide the police officer with the quality of education necessary to obtain the high degree of proficiency with which he must perform his duties.

The definition of policeman provided in P. L. 1968, c. 265, s. 2 (C. 52:17B-71.3) is designed to allow parties whose function falls within the scope of that definition to take advantage of the higher education scholarships granted by the Police Training Commission. The high degree of competence necessary to perform as a State Police officer mandates that State Police be added to the above-noted definition in order to take advantage of the scholarships granted by the Police Training Commission.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 94

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 24, 1975

PROVISIONS:

This bill would add the Chancellor of Higher Education to the Police Training Commission and would make State Police Officers eligible for college scholarships granted by the commission.

BACKGROUND:

The Police Training Commission in the Department of Law and Public Safety consists by law of 10 persons. There are 2 private citizens, 4 representatives of organizations such as the New Jersey State Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, an FBI representative and 3 State officials, 1 of whom is the Commissioner of Education. The addition of the Chancellor would bring the number of members to 11.

The Police Training Commission, which meets about 9 times a year, is charged with the supervision of police training in the State. Since 1965 there has been a requirement that every municipal or county officer must complete a 280-hour training course within a stipulated period of time. The commission does not operate the courses but certifies and monitors their operation at 14 regional police academies around the State. They also certify the instructors at these academies.

Although a 280-hour course is the minimum required, many programs go beyond that. Some of the academies teach courses for which college credit may be received, as at the academy located at Union College, which offers courses totalling 12 credits. Burlington County College also offers college credit programs at the Burlington County Police Academy, and the County College of Morris is planning a similar program.

The Superintendent of State Police is a member of the commission and the State Police operate a municipal and county police training academy at Sea Girt. The State Police are not otherwise involved in the operations of the commission.

The Police Training Commission Scholarship program has been in existence since 1968 and is funded by a \$50,000.00 annual appropriation. At present the scholarships are available to any full-time active

member of any municipal or county police force or organization. This bill would widen eligibility to include the State Police.

In 1968 about 700 policemen applied and were given an examination to establish eligibility. In the first year of operation, 250 policemen received scholarships of up to \$200.00 for undergraduate college tuition. Current grants are for \$495.00, with a mandated ceiling of \$500.00, and names are still being taken from the 1968 list. The commission anticipates that a new examination will be scheduled shortly.

PROBLEM ADDRESSED:

The scholarship program was initiated on the premise that "an educated policeman is a better public employee" (Legislative Findings, P. L. 1968, c. 265). This would also apply to State Police officers, who are not now eligible for commission scholarship. It also provides for direct input to the Police Training Commission from a representative of higher education.

All criminal justice personnel can apply for Federal scholarships through the Law Enforcement Education Program established under the "Omnibus Crime Control Act" (Title I of P. L. 90-351.). These carry grants of up to \$400.00 per semester for tuition and books. The recipient must agree to remain with his agency for a minimum of 2 years or return the money at interest of 7%. However, in FY 1974-75 funds available through the Law Enforcement Education Program were decreased and a further reduction is anticipated for FY 1975-76.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

Fiscal note requested: January 24, 1974.

It would appear that no additional appropriations would be necessary. The Police Training Commission scholarship program receives an annual appropriation of \$50,000.00. The State Police would be eligible for approximately 10% of these funds. However, this would reduce the number of scholarships for other categories of police.

The inclusion of the Chancellor on the Police Training Commission would involve no additional cost. The members serve without pay, but receive compensation for expenses (N. J. S. A. 52:17B-75).

CURRENT STATUS:

Assembly No. 94 passed in the Assembly on April 1, 1974 by a vote of 80-0.

POSITIONS ON THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

The Chancellor of Higher Education has forwarded a letter in support of this legislation.

This Police Training Commission supports this bill since the present program is exclusionary.