

52:27D-224.3
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2022 **CHAPTER:** 121

NJSA: 52:27D-224.3
(Requires certain public venues and places of worship to submit emergency plans to law enforcement agencies for purpose of preparing for mass casualty and active shooter events.)

BILL NO: S721 (Substituted for A1061)

SPONSOR(S) Richard J. Codey and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 1/11/2022

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Homeland Security and State Preparedness
Judiciary

SENATE: Law & Public Safety

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 10/3/2022

SENATE: 6/16/2022

DATE OF APPROVAL: 11/14/2022

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Introduced bill enacted) Yes

S721

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

A1061

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

end

(CORRECTED COPY)

P.L. 2022, CHAPTER 121, *approved November 14, 2022*
Senate, No. 721

1 AN ACT concerning law enforcement and amending P.L.2010, c.78.

2

3 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
4 of New Jersey:

5

6 1. Section 1 of P.L.2010, c.78 (C.52:27D-224.3) is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 1. All sports and entertainment facilities, movie theaters, and
9 places of worship in the State shall annually prepare and maintain
10 an emergency operations plan in coordination with the appropriate
11 local fire, law enforcement, and emergency response agencies. A
12 copy of the plan shall be filed each year with the municipal
13 emergency management coordinator and chief law enforcement
14 officer who serves the municipality in which the sports and
15 entertainment facility, movie theater, or place of worship is
16 situated.

17 The emergency operations plan shall include, but not be limited
18 to, a copy of the building plans or building layout that identifies the
19 internal and external access routes of the sports and entertainment
20 facility, movie theater, or place of worship. The chief law
21 enforcement officer shall utilize the emergency operations plans
22 submitted pursuant to this section to prepare and train for mass
23 casualty and active shooter incidents at sports and entertainment
24 facilities, movie theaters, and places of worship.

25 An emergency operations plan shall not be considered a public
26 record pursuant to P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.) or P.L.2001,
27 c.404 (C.47:1A-5 et al.).

28 **【**For the purposes of this act, "sports" **】** As used in this section:

29 "Movie theater" means a premises capable of seating more than
30 1,000 people at which the display of motion pictures to the general
31 public in exchange for a fee is the primary and principal business.

32 "Place of worship" means a building capable of seating more
33 than 500 people, including but not limited to a church, mosque, or
34 synagogue, used primarily as a place of public or private worship
35 on a permanent basis by a recognized and established religious sect
36 or denomination registered as a not-for-profit organization pursuant
37 to Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, 26
38 U.S.C. s.501 (c) (3).

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.

1 “Sports and entertainment facility” means any privately or
2 publicly owned or operated facility capable of seating more than
3 5,000 people and is used primarily for sports contests,
4 entertainment, or both, such as a theater, stadium, museum, arena,
5 automobile racetrack, or other place where performances, concerts,
6 exhibits, games or contests are held.
7 (cf: P.L.2010, c.78, s.1)

8 2. This act shall take effect of the first day of the seventh
9 month following enactment.

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11

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STATEMENT

13

14 This bill requires sports and entertainment facilities capable of
15 seating more than 5,000 people, movie theaters capable of seating
16 more than 1,000 people, and places of worship capable of seating
17 more than 500 people to annually prepare and maintain an
18 emergency operations plan in coordination with the appropriate
19 local fire, law enforcement, and emergency response agencies.

20 Under section 1 of P.L.2010, c.78 (C.52:27D-224.3), sports and
21 entertainment facilities are required to annually file an emergency
22 operations plan with the municipal emergency management
23 coordinator. This bill extends this requirement to movie theaters
24 and places of worship and requires that the emergency operations
25 plan be submitted to the chief law enforcement officer who serves
26 the municipality in which the sports and entertainment facility,
27 movie theater, or place of worship is located. The emergency
28 operations plan is required to include, but not be limited to, a copy
29 of the building plans or building layout that identifies the internal
30 and external access routes of the sports and entertainment facility,
31 movie theater, or place of worship. The chief law enforcement
32 officer is required to utilize the emergency operations plans to
33 prepare and train for mass casualty and active shooter incidents at
34 these venues.

35

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39 Requires certain public venues and places of worship to submit
40 emergency plans to law enforcement agencies for purpose of
41 preparing for mass casualty and active shooter events.

SENATE, No. 721

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Gill

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain public venues and places of worship to submit emergency plans to law enforcement agencies for purpose of preparing for mass casualty and active shooter events.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/16/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning law enforcement and amending P.L.2010, c.78.

2

3 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
4 of New Jersey:

5

6 1. Section 1 of P.L.2010, c.78 (C.52:27D-224.3) is amended to
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9 places of worship in the State shall annually prepare and maintain
10 an emergency operations plan in coordination with the appropriate
11 local fire, law enforcement, and emergency response agencies. A
12 copy of the plan shall be filed each year with the municipal
13 emergency management coordinator and chief law enforcement
14 officer who serves the municipality in which the sports and
15 entertainment facility, movie theater, or place of worship is
16 situated.

17 The emergency operations plan shall include, but not be limited
18 to, a copy of the building plans or building layout that identifies the
19 internal and external access routes of the sports and entertainment
20 facility, movie theater, or place of worship. The chief law
21 enforcement officer shall utilize the emergency operations plans
22 submitted pursuant to this section to prepare and train for mass
23 casualty and active shooter incidents at sports and entertainment
24 facilities, movie theaters, and places of worship.

25 An emergency operations plan shall not be considered a public
26 record pursuant to P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.) or P.L.2001,
27 c.404 (C.47:1A-5 et al.).

28 **【For the purposes of this act, "sports】** As used in this section:

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30 1,000 people at which the display of motion pictures to the general
31 public in exchange for a fee is the primary and principal business.

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33 than 500 people, including but not limited to a church, mosque, or
34 synagogue, used primarily as a place of public or private worship
35 on a permanent basis by a recognized and established religious sect
36 or denomination registered as a not-for-profit organization pursuant
37 to Section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, 26
38 U.S.C. s.501 (c) (3).

39 “Sports and entertainment facility” means any privately or
40 publicly owned or operated facility capable of seating more than
41 5,000 people and is used primarily for sports contests,
42 entertainment, or both, such as a theater, stadium, museum, arena,
43 automobile racetrack, or other place where performances, concerts,
44 exhibits, games or contests are held.

45 (cf: P.L.2010, c.78, s.1)

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.

1 2. This act shall take effect of the first day of the seventh
2 month following enactment.

3

4

5

STATEMENT

6

7 This bill requires sports and entertainment facilities capable of
8 seating more than 5,000 people, movie theaters capable of seating
9 more than 1,000 people, and places of worship capable of seating
10 more than 500 people to annually prepare and maintain an
11 emergency operations plan in coordination with the appropriate
12 local fire, law enforcement, and emergency response agencies.

13 Under section 1 of P.L.2010, c.78 (C.52:27D-224.3), sports and
14 entertainment facilities are required to annually file an emergency
15 operations plan with the municipal emergency management
16 coordinator. This bill extends this requirement to movie theaters
17 and places of worship and requires that the emergency operations
18 plan be submitted to the chief law enforcement officer who serves
19 the municipality in which the sports and entertainment facility,
20 movie theater, or place of worship is located. The emergency
21 operations plan is required to include, but not be limited to, a copy
22 of the building plans or building layout that identifies the internal
23 and external access routes of the sports and entertainment facility,
24 movie theater, or place of worship. The chief law enforcement
25 officer is required to utilize the emergency operations plans to
26 prepare and train for mass casualty and active shooter incidents at
27 these venues.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 721

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 19, 2022

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 721.

As reported by the committee, this bill requires sports and entertainment facilities capable of seating more than 5,000 people, movie theaters capable of seating more than 1,000 people, and places of worship capable of seating more than 500 people to annually prepare and maintain an emergency operations plan in coordination with the appropriate local fire, law enforcement, and emergency response agencies.

Under section 1 of P.L.2010, c.78 (C.52:27D-224.3), sports and entertainment facilities are required to annually file an emergency operations plan with the municipal emergency management coordinator. This bill extends this requirement to movie theaters and places of worship and requires that the emergency operations plan be submitted to the chief law enforcement officer who serves the municipality in which the sports and entertainment facility, movie theater, or place of worship is located. The emergency operations plan is required to include, but not be limited to, a copy of the building plans or building layout that identifies the internal and external access routes of the sports and entertainment facility, movie theater, or place of worship. The chief law enforcement officer is required to utilize the emergency operations plans to prepare and train for mass casualty and active shooter incidents at these venues.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 721

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No.721.

This bill requires sports and entertainment facilities capable of seating more than 5,000 people, movie theaters capable of seating more than 1,000 people, and places of worship capable of seating more than 500 people to annually prepare and maintain an emergency operations plan in coordination with the appropriate local fire, law enforcement, and emergency response agencies.

Under section 1 of P.L.2010, c.78 (C.52:27D-224.3), sports and entertainment facilities are required to annually file an emergency operations plan with the municipal emergency management coordinator. This bill extends this requirement to movie theaters and places of worship and requires that the emergency operations plan be submitted to the chief law enforcement officer who serves the municipality in which the sports and entertainment facility, movie theater, or place of worship is located. The emergency operations plan is required to include, but not be limited to, a copy of the building plans or building layout that identifies the internal and external access routes of the sports and entertainment facility, movie theater, or place of worship. The chief law enforcement officer is required to utilize the emergency operations plans to prepare and train for mass casualty and active shooter incidents at these venues.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1061

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblyman JOE DANIELSEN

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

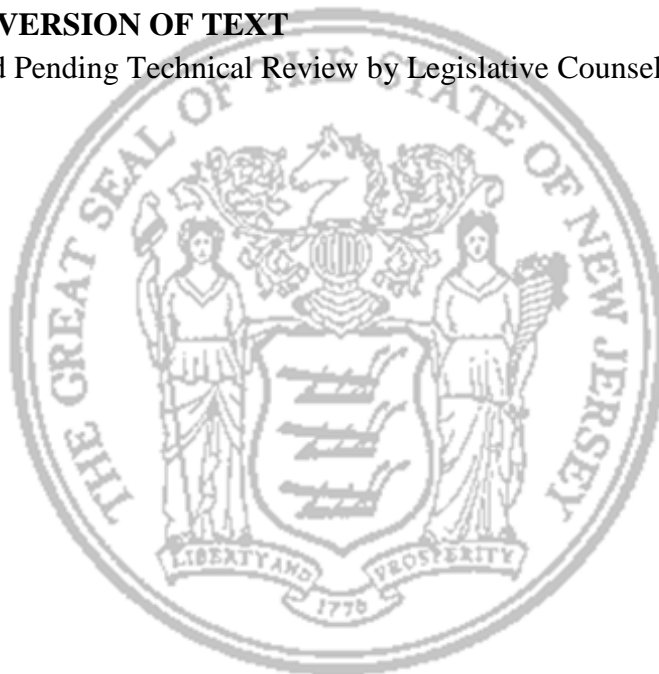
Assemblyman Stanley

SYNOPSIS

Requires certain public venues and places of worship to submit emergency plans to law enforcement agencies for purpose of preparing for mass casualty and active shooter events.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/29/2022)

A1061 SCHAER, TIMBERLAKE

2

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41 5,000 people and is used primarily for sports contests,
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45 (cf: P.L.2010, c.78, s.1)

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.

1 2. This act shall take effect of the first day of the seventh
2 month following enactment.

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STATEMENT

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14 entertainment facilities are required to annually file an emergency
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21 operations plan is required to include, but not be limited to, a copy
22 of the building plans or building layout that identifies the internal
23 and external access routes of the sports and entertainment facility,
24 movie theater, or place of worship. The chief law enforcement
25 officer is required to utilize the emergency operations plans to
26 prepare and train for mass casualty and active shooter incidents at
27 these venues.

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1061

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1061.

This bill requires sports and entertainment facilities capable of seating more than 5,000 people, movie theaters capable of seating more than 1,000 people, and places of worship capable of seating more than 500 people to annually prepare and maintain an emergency operations plan in coordination with the appropriate local fire, law enforcement, and emergency response agencies.

Under section 1 of P.L.2010, c.78 (C.52:27D-224.3), sports and entertainment facilities are required to annually file an emergency operations plan with the municipal emergency management coordinator. This bill extends this requirement to movie theaters and places of worship and requires that the emergency operations plan be submitted to the chief law enforcement officer who serves the municipality in which the sports and entertainment facility, movie theater, or place of worship is located. The emergency operations plan is required to include, but not be limited to, a copy of the building plans or building layout that identifies the internal and external access routes of the sports and entertainment facility, movie theater, or place of worship. The chief law enforcement officer is required to utilize the emergency operations plans to prepare and train for mass casualty and active shooter incidents at these venues.

This bill was prefiled for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

Governor Murphy Signs Legislation to Enhance Security for Large Venues

11/14/2022

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today signed legislation (S721), strengthening the state’s threat response infrastructure by enhancing security requirements for large venues. The legislation requires certain public venues and places of worship to submit emergency plans to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of preparing for mass casualty and active shooter events.

“As we wake up to the reality of another mass shooting in America, this time at the University of Virginia, it is clear that we must do everything in our power to protect our communities and our residents from the senseless gun violence that plagues our country,” **said Governor Murphy**. “The gun violence epidemic underscores the critical need for state, local, and community partners to work together to ensure the highest standards of public safety are being met. This legislation will enhance security requirements for New Jersey’s public venues and places of worship so that law enforcement agencies can be best prepared to handle threats and respond to emergencies.”

This bill requires sports and entertainment facilities capable of seating more than 5,000 people, movie theaters capable of seating more than 1,000 people, and places of worship capable of seating more than 500 people to annually prepare and maintain an emergency operations plan in coordination with the appropriate local fire, law enforcement, and emergency response agencies. The emergency operations plan must be submitted to the chief law enforcement officer who serves the municipality in which the sports and entertainment facility, movie theater, or place of worship is located.

“Our response to gun violence must remain proactive, not reactive,” **said Attorney General Matthew J. Platkin**. “Security plans play an important role in how quickly and effectively law enforcement can respond to emergencies, and protect the safety of our residents. By requiring public spaces - including our often targeted houses of worship - to prepare effective emergency procedures, our officers will have the information they need to act swiftly and with precision, which could undoubtedly help save lives.”

“When responding to an active shooter or mass casualty incident, officers are forced to make a variety of critical decisions. The time for developing a policy is prior to the event, not during, which is why the signing of this legislation is so crucial,” **said Colonel Patrick J. Callahan, Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police**. “The requirements set forth in this bill will enable law enforcement agencies to minimize response times to critical incidents, eliminate threats, and provide aid to those in need.”

“This is a significant step forward in resiliency efforts for the State of New Jersey,” **said New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Director Laurie R. Doran**. “New Jersey continues to be at the forefront of national efforts for preparedness and joint response. This bill will further enhance our capabilities of strategic planning and cooperation to deter and defend against an ever-evolving threat landscape.”

Primary sponsors of the legislation include Senators Richard Codey and Joseph Cryan, and Assemblymembers Gary Schaer, Britnee Timberlake, and Joe Danielsen.

“As we have all seen recently, mass shootings are a real and scary risk in our country,” **said Senator Richard Codey**. “The latest mass shootings and the way that they were handled by law enforcement have reaffirmed the importance of being prepared for these scenarios, as they happen unexpectedly and with no warning. In these situations, every second matters and lives should not be lost due to first responders needing to figure out how to safely enter a building. By having a plan in place for first responders, we can ensure that our officers are equipped with the expertise of how to best handle the active shooter threat and save more individuals from injury or death.”

“We continue to witness a disturbing increase in the number of hate crimes targeted at people or facilities based on race, religion and ethnicity,” **said Senator Joe Cryan, who previously served as Union County Sheriff**. “Acting proactively will help protect houses of worship, community centers and other non-profit institutions that are most vulnerable from acts of violence. By requiring emergency plans from these venues, we can make them safer and more secure. We won’t allow bias or hate to intimidate anyone from practicing their religion, honoring their ethnic pride or gathering freely for other purposes.”

“Through this law, our emergency responders and communities of faith will build proactive partnerships to increase public safety,” **said Assemblyman Gary Schaer**. “Emergency response plans that include building layouts allow our law enforcement personnel to effectively resolve any threats. I will continue to fight so every New Jersey resident can worship without fear.”

“Preparedness is key for a swift response to any emergent situation. Putting building blueprints in the hands of law enforcement in addition to local fire and emergency response agencies ahead of time ensures our coordinated response is as effective as it can be, should the worst-case scenario happen,” **said Assemblywoman Britnee Timberlake**. “Everyone should be able to freely live and worship without fear. This is a basic founding principle of our country.”

“With the number of bias incidents in New Jersey reported to be up by 65 percent, the time for this law has never been more appropriate,” **said Assemblyman Joe Daniels**. “Extending access to building plans to law enforcement is critical for quick response and is in the best interest of public safety for all our communities.”

“In light of the current climate of our nation, this bill is of vital importance,” **said Rev. Dr. Kenneth D.R. Clayton**. “It will cause for houses of worship and other public venues to plan for and be proactive about such possible occurrences and in so doing lives could be spared death and possible harm.”

“It is so important for Houses of Worship to work closely with local law enforcement to help keep communities safe,” **said Rabbi Schapiro, Chabad of the Shore**. “This open communication will lead to a more safe and secure environment for people of all faiths and religions.”

“For the safety and security of the Sangat, it’s imperative that we plan and implement security plans with the help of the law enforcement community to protect our congregations,” **said Yadvinder Singh, President of New Jersey Sikh Gurdwara Council**. “Bringing this issue into legal framework will help its implementation! NJ Sikh Gurdwara Council welcomes this step by the NJ Legislature and Governor Murphy. Thanks for keeping NJ safe.”