



LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 1998

CHAPTER:148

NJSA: 40A:14-195

"Crisis intervention -- law enforcement officers"

BILL NO: A1799 (Substituted for S624 2nd Reprint)

SPONSOR(S): Farragher and Corodemus

DATE INTRODUCED: March 9, 1998

COMMITTEE:

ASSEMBLY: Law and Public Safety

SENATE: ~~~~

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE:

ASSEMBLY: November 23, 1998

SENATE: October 22, 1998

DATE OF APPROVAL: January 5, 1999

THE FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL: 1st Reprint

(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

A1799

SPONSORS STATEMENT: *Yes* (Begins on page 4 of original bill)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY:*Yes*

SENATE:*No*

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: *Yes*

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: *No*

S624

SPONSORS STATEMENT: *Yes* (Begins on page 4 of original bill)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY: *No*

SENATE: *Yes*

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: *Yes*

(Identical to Floor Amendment Statement for A1799)

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: *No*

VETO MESSAGE: *No*

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: *Yes*

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS:

Recommended in:

974.90 P766 1995

New Jersey. Law Enforcement Officers Study Commission. Solomon, Lee A.

Final report /

Trenton, N.J.: The Commission, [1995]

Pages 21 & 22

HEARINGS: *No*

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

"Gov. inks law for stressed cops," 1-6-99, Trentonian, p. 10.

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1799

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 9, 1998

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CLARE M. FARRAGHER

District 12 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman STEVE CORODEMUS

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

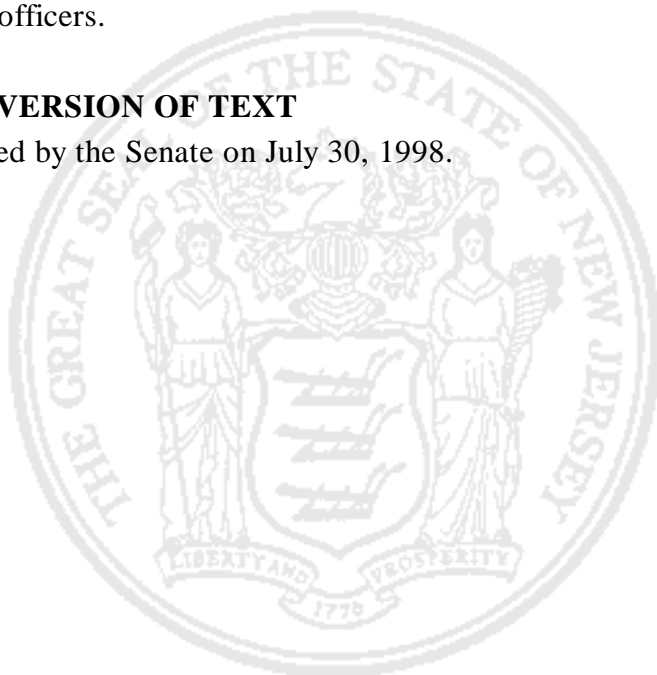
Assemblyman Geist, Senators Kyrillos, Robertson, Allen and DiFrancesco

SYNOPSIS

Permits counties to establish crisis intervention services programs for law enforcement officers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the Senate on July 30, 1998.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/23/1998)

1 AN ACT concerning law enforcement officers and supplementing
2 chapter 14 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. (New section) The governing body of any county, by ordinance
8 or resolution, as appropriate, may provide for the establishment of a
9 law enforcement crisis intervention services program. The purpose of
10 the program is to provide post traumatic debriefing and counseling
11 services for law enforcement officers and sheriff's officers who have
12 been involved in incidents which may produce personal or job-related
13 depression, anxiety, stress, or other psychological or emotional
14 tensions, traumas, pressures or disorders.

15 A crisis intervention services program established pursuant to this
16 act shall be an independent agency of county government. It shall not
17 be organized as a division, department, bureau, or as any other type of
18 subdivision of any county law enforcement agency or of any other law
19 enforcement department, force or agency of any municipality within
20 the county.

21 To preserve the integrity of the services offered under the program,
22 the facility shall not be located at or adjacent to any law enforcement
23 facility, station or barracks in the county.

24

25 2. (New section) a. If a county establishes a crisis intervention
26 services program pursuant to this act, the services shall be available to
27 any law enforcement officer and sheriff's officer employed by any
28 county law enforcement department or agency, or any municipal
29 department, force or agency in the county who is involved in an
30 incident which may produce personal or job-related depression,
31 anxiety, stress, or other psychological or emotional tensions, traumas,
32 pressures or disorders. ¹Nothing in this act shall be construed to
33 prohibit a law enforcement officer or sheriff's officer in a county which
34 has established a crisis intervention program from participating in any
35 other crisis intervention, stress management or counseling program.¹

36 b. If a county establishes a crisis intervention services program
37 pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.)(now pending before the
38 Legislature as this bill), any officer employed by any county law
39 enforcement department or agency, or any municipal department, force
40 or agency in the county who is actively involved in a critical incident,
41 shall be required to participate in the program's debriefing and
42 counseling services before returning to active law enforcement duty

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate floor amendments adopted July 30, 1998.

1 unless, in the opinion of the chief executive officer of the law
2 enforcement agency, the ability to deploy officers to preserve order
3 and protect public safety requires a return to active duty pending
4 scheduling of debriefing and counseling services, which shall occur as
5 promptly as is practicable.

6 For the purpose of this subsection, critical incident shall mean an
7 event involving the firing of a weapon or an exchange of gun fire;
8 serious bodily injury to or the death of a juvenile; a terrorist act; a
9 hostage situation; serious bodily injury to or the death of another law
10 enforcement officer employed in the same agency, when that serious
11 bodily injury or death occurred in the performance of that officer's
12 official duties; a personal injury or wound serious bodily injury
13 received in the performance of the officer's official duties; and such
14 other incidents or events as the county crisis intervention services
15 advisory council established pursuant to section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.)
16 (now pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall deem
17 appropriate.

18

19 3. (New section) a. The debriefing and counseling services
20 available under a program established pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.)
21 (now pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall be provided by
22 appropriately licensed or certified psychologists and social workers
23 who are either employees of the county or under contract to provide
24 such professional services to the county. No employee of a county or
25 municipal law enforcement agency, department or force shall provide
26 any debriefing or counseling services under the program; provided,
27 however, nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit any county or
28 municipal law enforcement agency, department or force from
29 establishing an internal, administrative debriefing and counseling
30 program to identify law enforcement officers or sheriff's officers who
31 may benefit from the services available under the county crisis
32 intervention services program and to refer those officers to those
33 services.

34 b. Former law enforcement officers and other persons who are not
35 licensed or certified as psychologists or social workers and who are
36 not currently employed by any county or municipal law enforcement
37 agency may be employed by the county to provide debriefing and
38 counseling services; provided those former law enforcement officers
39 and other persons are:

40 (1) currently enrolled in an educational program to acquire such
41 licensing or certification; or

42 (2) familiar with the emotional crises and psychological stresses,
43 tensions and anxieties associated with law enforcement duty; or

44 (3) trained to provide specialized or supplemental counseling
45 services involving domestic violence, substance abuse, gambling,
46 marriage and family life, and such other topics as the county crisis

1 intervention service advisory council, established pursuant to section
2 4 of this act, may deem necessary; and

3 (4) perform those debriefing and counseling services under the
4 direct supervision of a licensed or certified psychologist, psychiatrist,
5 or social worker.

6

7 4. (New section) The governing body of a county which
8 establishes a county crisis intervention services program pursuant to
9 P.L. , c. (C.)(now pending before the Legislature as this
10 bill) shall, by ordinance or resolution, as appropriate, organize a
11 county crisis intervention services advisory council. The purpose of
12 the council shall be to advise and assist in the organization and
13 development of an effective county crisis intervention services
14 program. The council shall consist of a representative of the county
15 Association of Chiefs of Police; a representative of a collective
16 bargaining unit representing one of the several law enforcement
17 agencies in the county; the County Prosecutor or his designee; a
18 representative of the county Health Department specializing in mental
19 health; and a certified or licensed psychologist who is experienced in
20 the diagnosis and treatment of emotional, psychological, or post
21 trauma stress disorders.

22

23 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
24 following enactment.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1799

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 9, 1998

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CLARE M. FARRAGHER

District 12 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman STEVE CORODEMUS

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

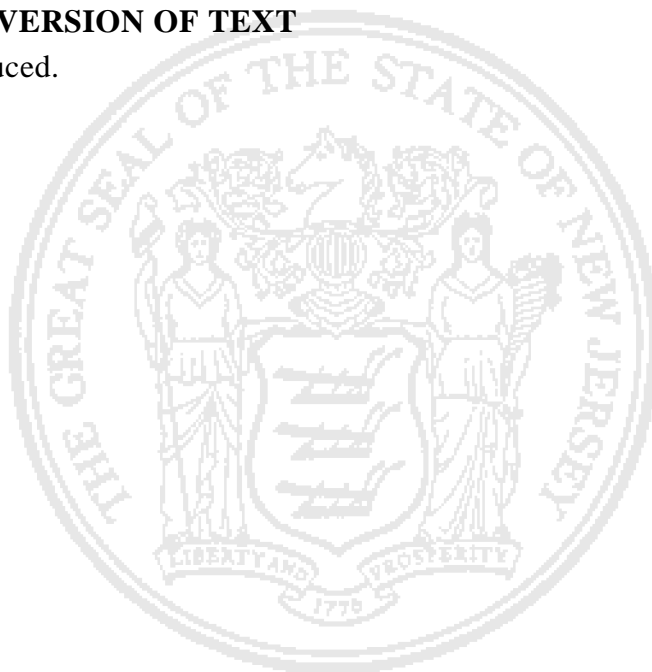
Assemblyman Geist

SYNOPSIS

Permits counties to establish crisis intervention services programs for law enforcement officers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/26/1998)

1 AN ACT concerning law enforcement officers and supplementing
2 chapter 14 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

6
7 1. (New section) The governing body of any county, by ordinance
8 or resolution, as appropriate, may provide for the establishment of a
9 law enforcement crisis intervention services program. The purpose of
10 the program is to provide post traumatic debriefing and counseling
11 services for law enforcement officers and sheriff's officers who have
12 been involved in incidents which may produce personal or job-related
13 depression, anxiety, stress, or other psychological or emotional
14 tensions, traumas, pressures or disorders.

15 A crisis intervention services program established pursuant to this
16 act shall be an independent agency of county government. It shall not
17 be organized as a division, department, bureau, or as any other type of
18 subdivision of any county law enforcement agency or of any other law
19 enforcement department, force or agency of any municipality within
20 the county.

21 To preserve the integrity of the services offered under the program,
22 the facility shall not be located at or adjacent to any law enforcement
23 facility, station or barracks in the county.

24
25 2. (New section) a. If a county establishes a crisis intervention
26 services program pursuant to this act, the services shall be available to
27 any law enforcement officer and sheriff's officer employed by any
28 county law enforcement department or agency, or any municipal
29 department, force or agency in the county who is involved in an
30 incident which may produce personal or job-related depression,
31 anxiety, stress, or other psychological or emotional tensions, traumas,
32 pressures or disorders.

33 b. If a county establishes a crisis intervention services program
34 pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.)(now pending before the
35 Legislature as this bill), any officer employed by any county law
36 enforcement department or agency, or any municipal department, force
37 or agency in the county who is actively involved in a critical incident,
38 shall be required to participate in the program's debriefing and
39 counseling services before returning to active law enforcement duty
40 unless, in the opinion of the chief executive officer of the law
41 enforcement agency, the ability to deploy officers to preserve order
42 and protect public safety requires a return to active duty pending
43 scheduling of debriefing and counseling services, which shall occur as
44 promptly as is practicable.

45 For the purpose of this subsection, critical incident shall mean an
46 event involving the firing of a weapon or an exchange of gun fire;

1 serious bodily injury to or the death of a juvenile; a terrorist act; a
2 hostage situation; serious bodily injury to or the death of another law
3 enforcement officer employed in the same agency, when that serious
4 bodily injury or death occurred in the performance of that officer's
5 official duties; a personal injury or wound serious bodily injury
6 received in the performance of the officer's official duties; and such
7 other incidents or events as the county crisis intervention services
8 advisory council established pursuant to section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.)
9 (now pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall deem
10 appropriate.

11

12 3. (New section) a. The debriefing and counseling services
13 available under a program established pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.)
14 (now pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall be provided by
15 appropriately licensed or certified psychologists and social workers
16 who are either employees of the county or under contract to provide
17 such professional services to the county. No employee of a county or
18 municipal law enforcement agency, department or force shall provide
19 any debriefing or counseling services under the program; provided,
20 however, nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit any county or
21 municipal law enforcement agency, department or force from
22 establishing an internal, administrative debriefing and counseling
23 program to identify law enforcement officers or sheriff's officers who
24 may benefit from the services available under the county crisis
25 intervention services program and to refer those officers to those
26 services.

27 b. Former law enforcement officers and other persons who are not
28 licensed or certified as psychologists or social workers and who are
29 not currently employed by any county or municipal law enforcement
30 agency may be employed by the county to provide debriefing and
31 counseling services; provided those former law enforcement officers
32 and other persons are:

33 (1) currently enrolled in an educational program to acquire such
34 licensing or certification; or

35 (2) familiar with the emotional crises and psychological stresses,
36 tensions and anxieties associated with law enforcement duty; or

37 (3) trained to provide specialized or supplemental counseling
38 services involving domestic violence, substance abuse, gambling,
39 marriage and family life, and such other topics as the county crisis
40 intervention service advisory council, established pursuant to section
41 4 of this act, may deem necessary; and

42 (4) perform those debriefing and counseling services under the
43 direct supervision of a licensed or certified psychologist, psychiatrist,
44 or social worker.

45

46 4. (New section) The governing body of a county which

1 establishes a county crisis intervention services program pursuant to
2 P.L. , c. (C.)(now pending before the Legislature as this
3 bill) shall, by ordinance or resolution, as appropriate, organize a
4 county crisis intervention services advisory council. The purpose of
5 the council shall be to advise and assist in the organization and
6 development of an effective county crisis intervention services
7 program. The council shall consist of a representative of the county
8 Association of Chiefs of Police; a representative of a collective
9 bargaining unit representing one of the several law enforcement
10 agencies in the county; the County Prosecutor or his designee; a
11 representative of the county Health Department specializing in mental
12 health; and a certified or licensed psychologist who is experienced in
13 the diagnosis and treatment of emotional, psychological, or post
14 trauma stress disorders.

15

16 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
17 following enactment.

18

19

20

STATEMENT

21

22 This bill permits counties to establish crisis intervention services
23 programs to provide post traumatic debriefing and counseling services
24 for law enforcement officers and sheriffs' officers who have been
25 involved in incidents which may produce personal or job-related
26 depression, anxiety, stress or other psychological or emotional
27 tensions, traumas, pressures, or disorders.

28 To preserve the integrity of the program and to encourage law
29 enforcement officers to take advantage of the program's services, the
30 bill requires that the program be organized as an independent agency
31 of county government, rather than organized as a part of any county
32 or municipal law enforcement agency or department. For the same
33 reasons, the bill provides that all the employees of the program must
34 be county employees or contractors rather than employees of any law
35 enforcement agency and that the actual facility must not be located in
36 or adjacent to any law enforcement facility, station or barracks.

37 While the debriefing and counseling services provided under the
38 program would be available to any law enforcement officer in the
39 county, the bill specifies that any officer involved in a critical incident
40 must participate in his county's program before returning to active
41 duty. A critical incident is defined by the bill.

42 The services are to be provided by properly licensed or certified
43 psychologists and social workers. To provide advisory assistance in
44 organizing a crisis intervention program, the bill directs the governing
45 body to establish a county crisis intervention services advisory council.

ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1799

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 1, 1998

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1799.

Assembly Bill No. 1799 permits counties to establish crisis intervention service programs to provide post traumatic debriefing and counseling services for law enforcement officers who have been involved in incidents which may produce personal or job-related depression, anxiety, stress or other psychological or emotional tensions, traumas, pressures, or disorders.

Under the provisions of this bill, a county could establish a crisis intervention program for the law enforcement officers working in the county. To preserve the integrity of the program and to encourage law enforcement officers to take advantage of the program's services, the bill requires that the program be organized as an independent agency of county government, rather than organized as a part of any county or municipal law enforcement agency or department. For the same reasons, the bill provides that all the employees of the program must be county employees or contractors rather than employees of any law enforcement agency and that the actual facility must not be located in or adjacent to any law enforcement facility, station or barracks.

While the debriefing and counseling services would be available to any law enforcement officer, the bill requires that any officer who is involved in a critical incident must participate in the program before returning to active duty. A critical incident is defined as an event involving a shooting; an untimely death; injury to or the death of a juvenile; a terrorist act; a hostage situation; injury to or the death of an associate law enforcement officer; personal wound or injury; or other emotional or psychologically stressful event.

The services are to be provided by properly licensed or certified psychologists and social workers. Again, to ensure the integrity of the program and protect the participating officers, the bill prohibits the use of law enforcement officers in the debriefing and counseling services part of the program, but does encourage each county or municipal department to conduct its own debriefing and counseling services to help identify those needing the county services and referring those in need to those services.

To provide advisory assistance in organizing a crisis intervention program, the bill directs the governing body to establish a county crisis

intervention services advisory council. The council is to include a representative of the county Association of Chiefs of Police; a representative from the union or unions, as the case may be, representing the law enforcement officers; the County Prosecutor or his designee; a representative of the county Department of Health specializing in mental health; a certified or licensed psychologist experienced in the diagnosis and treatment of emotional, psychological or post trauma stress disorders, and any other specialists the governing body thinks appropriate.

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 1799

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed By Senator KYRILLOS)

ADOPTED: July 30, 1998

Assembly Bill No. 1799 permits counties to establish law enforcement crisis intervention services programs. The programs will provide post traumatic debriefing and counseling services for law enforcement officers and sheriff's officers who have been involved in incidents which may produce personal or job-related depression, anxiety, stress or other psychological or emotional tensions, traumas, pressures or disorders.

This Senate amendment clarifies that the bill should not be construed as prohibiting a law enforcement officer or sheriff's officer in a county which has established a crisis intervention program from participating in any other crisis intervention, stress management or counseling program.

SENATE, No. 624

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 1998

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH M. KYRILLOS, JR.
District 13 (Middlesex and Monmouth)
Senator NORMAN M. ROBERTSON
District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Permits counties to establish crisis intervention programs for law enforcement officers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning law enforcement officers and supplementing
2 chapter 14 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

6
7 1. (New section) The governing body of any county, by ordinance
8 or resolution, as appropriate, may provide for the establishment of a
9 law enforcement crisis intervention services program. The purpose of
10 the program is to provide post traumatic debriefing and counseling
11 services for law enforcement officers and sheriff's officers who have
12 been involved in incidents which may produce personal or job-related
13 depression, anxiety, stress, or other psychological or emotional
14 tensions, traumas, pressures or disorders.

15 A crisis intervention services program established pursuant to this
16 act shall be an independent agency of county government. It shall not
17 be organized as a division, department, bureau, or as any other type of
18 subdivision of any county law enforcement agency or of any other law
19 enforcement department, force or agency of any municipality within
20 the county.

21 To preserve the integrity of the services offered under the program,
22 the facility shall not be located at or adjacent to any law enforcement
23 facility, station or barracks in the county.

24
25 2. (New section) a. If a county establishes a crisis intervention
26 services program established pursuant to this act, the services shall be
27 available to any law enforcement officer and sheriff's officer employed
28 by any county law enforcement department or agency, or any
29 municipal department, force or agency in the county who is involved
30 in an incident which may produce personal or job-related depression,
31 anxiety, stress, or other psychological or emotional tensions, traumas,
32 pressures or disorders.

33 b. If a county establishes a crisis intervention services program
34 pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature
35 as this bill), any officer employed By any county law enforcement
36 department or agency or any municipal department, force or agency in
37 the county who is actively involved in a critical incident, shall be
38 required to participate in the program's debriefing and counseling
39 services before returning to active law enforcement duty unless, in the
40 opinion of the chief executive officer of the law enforcement agency,
41 the ability to deploy officers to preserve order and protect public
42 safety requires a return to active duty pending scheduling of debriefing
43 and counseling services, which shall occur as promptly as is
44 practicable.

45 For the purpose of this subsection, critical incident shall mean an
46 event involving the firing of a weapon or an exchange of gun fire;

1 serious bodily injury to or the death of a juvenile; a terrorist act; a
2 hostage situation; serious bodily injury to or the death of another law
3 enforcement officer employed in the same agency, when that serious
4 bodily injury or death occurred in the performance of that officer's
5 official duties; a serious bodily injury received in the performance of
6 the officer's official duties; and such other incidents or events as the
7 county crisis intervention services advisory council established
8 pursuant to section 4 of P.L. , c. , (C.)(now pending before the
9 Legislature ass this bill shall deem appropriate.

10
11 3. (New section) a. The debriefing and counseling services
12 available under a program established pursuant to P.L. , c. ,
13 (C.)(now pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall be
14 provided by appropriately licensed or certified psychologists and social
15 workers who are either employees of the county or under contract to
16 provide such professional services to the county. No employee of a
17 county or municipal law enforcement agency, department or force shall
18 provide any debriefing or counseling services under the program;
19 provided, however, nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit any
20 county or municipal law enforcement agency, department or force
21 from establishing an internal, administrative debriefing and counseling
22 program to identify law enforcement officers or sheriff's officers who
23 may benefit from the services available under the county crisis
24 intervention services program and to refer those officers to those
25 services.

26 b. Former law enforcement officers and other persons who are not
27 licensed or certified as psychologists or social workers and who are
28 not currently employed by any county or municipal law enforcement
29 agency may be employed by the county to provide debriefing and
30 counseling services provided those former law enforcement officers
31 and other persons are:

32 (1) currently enrolled in an educational program to acquire such
33 licensing or certification; or

34 (2) familiar with the emotional crises and psychological stresses,
35 tensions and anxieties associated with law enforcement duty; or

36 (3) trained to provide specialized or supplemental counseling
37 services involving domestic violence, substance abuse, gambling,
38 marriage and family life, and such other topics as the county crisis
39 intervention service advisory council, established pursuant to section
40 4 of this act, may deem necessary; and

41 (4) performing those debriefing and counseling services under the
42 direct supervision of a licensed or certified psychologist, psychiatrist,
43 or social worker.

44
45 4. (New section) The governing body of a county which
46 establishes a county crisis intervention services program pursuant to

1 P.L. , c. , (C.)(now pending before the Legislature as this bill
2 shall, by ordinance or resolution, as appropriate, organize a county
3 crisis intervention services advisory council. The purpose of the
4 council shall be to advise and assist in the organization and
5 development of an effective county crisis intervention services
6 program. The council shall consist of a representative of the county
7 Association of Chiefs of Police; a representative of a collective
8 bargaining unit representing one of the exclusive bargaining
9 representative or representatives, as the case may be, of the several
10 law enforcement agencies in the county; the County Prosecutor or his
11 designee; a representative of the county Health Department
12 specializing in mental health; and a certified or licensed psychologist
13 who is experienced in the diagnosis and treatment of emotional,
14 psychological, or post trauma stress disorders.

15

16 5. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
17 following enactment.

18

19

20

STATEMENT

21

22 This bill permits counties to establish law enforcement crisis
23 intervention services programs. The programs will provide post
24 traumatic debriefing and counseling services for law enforcement
25 officers and sheriffs' officers who have been involved in incidents
26 which may produce personal or job-related depression, anxiety, stress
27 or other psychological or emotional tensions, traumas, pressures, or
28 disorders.

29 To preserve the integrity of a program and to encourage officers
30 to take advantage of the program's services, the bill requires that the
31 program be organized as an independent agency of county
32 government, rather than as a part of any county or municipal law
33 enforcement agency or department. For the same reasons, the bill
34 provides that all the employees of the program must be county
35 employees or contractors rather than employees of any law
36 enforcement agency, and that the actual facility must not be located in
37 or adjacent to any law enforcement facility, station or barracks.

38 While the debriefing and counseling services would be available to
39 any officer, the bill requires that any officer who is involved in a
40 critical incident must participate in the program before returning to
41 active duty. A critical incident is defined by the bill.

42 The services are to be provided by properly licensed or certified
43 psychologists and social workers. To provide advisory assistance in
44 organizing a crisis intervention program, the bill directs the governing
45 body to establish a county crisis intervention services advisory council.

46 Finally, the bill amends R.S.39:5-40 and R.S.39:5-41 to impose a

S624 KYRILLOS, ROBERTSON

5

1 \$1 surcharge on all motor vehicle fines, penalties or forfeitures
2 collected in the State. Of this surcharge, \$0.75 is to be forwarded to
3 the county treasurer for deposit into a fund to support the county's
4 program (if the county has a program), and \$0.25 is to be forwarded
5 to the State Treasurer to support the "Law Enforcement Officer Crisis
6 Intervention Services" telephone hotline established by the
7 Commissioner of Personnel. If a county does not have a program, the
8 entire \$1 will be forwarded to the State Treasurer.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 624

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 26, 1998

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports, without recommendation, Senate Bill No. 624 with committee amendments.

This bill permits counties to establish law enforcement crisis intervention services programs. The programs will provide post traumatic debriefing and counseling services for law enforcement officers and sheriffs' officers who have been involved in incidents which may produce personal or job-related depression, anxiety, stress or other psychological or emotional tensions, traumas, pressures or disorders.

To preserve the integrity of a program and to encourage officers to take advantage of the program's services, the bill requires that the program be organized as an independent agency of county government, rather than as a part of any county or municipal law enforcement agency or department. For the same reason, the bill provides that all the employees of the program must be county employees or contractors rather than employees of any law enforcement agency, and that the actual facility must not be located in, or adjacent to, any law enforcement facility, station or barracks.

While the debriefing and counseling services would be available to any officer, the bill requires that any officer who is involved in a critical incident must participate in the program before returning to active duty. A critical incident is defined by the bill.

The services are to be provided by properly licensed or certified psychologists and social workers. To provide advisory assistance in organizing a crisis intervention program, the bill directs the governing body to establish a county crisis intervention services advisory council.

The committee amendment is technical in nature.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 624

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed By Senator Kyrillos)

ADOPTED: JUNE 30, 1998

Senate Bill No. 624 (1R) permits counties to establish law enforcement crisis intervention services programs. The programs will provide post traumatic debriefing and counseling services for law enforcement officers and sheriff's officers who have been involved in incidents which may produce personal or job-related depression, anxiety, stress or other psychological or emotional tensions, traumas, pressures or disorders.

This Senate amendment clarifies that the bill should not be construed as prohibiting a law enforcement officer or sheriff's officer in a county which has established a crisis intervention program from participating in any other crisis intervention, stress management or counseling program.

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
609-777-2600

RELEASE: January 5, 1999

Governor Whitman Signs Laws to Aid Law Enforcement Officers

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed legislation at a State House ceremony, recognizing the danger and stress law enforcement officers face everyday while they serve and protect communities around the state.

"I would like to thank the men and the women in the law enforcement community. Their heroic work enables us to talk about historic lows in crime. Their performance, day in and day out, confirms something I've always believed: New Jersey has the finest law enforcement community in the country," Gov. Whitman said. "Today, I am happy to sign into law two pieces of legislation that will do even more to honor and support our law enforcement officers."

The Governor signed the following bills during a ceremony in which she also announced the state's most recent crime statistics have dropped to the lowest levels in 24 years.

A-1799, sponsored by Assembly Members Clare M. Farragher (R- Monmouth) and Steve Corodemus (R-Monmouth) and Senators Joseph M. Kyrillos, Jr. (R-Middlesex/ Monmouth) and Norman M. Robertson (R- Essex/Passaic), allows counties to provide crisis intervention programs for law enforcement officers.

The bill will permit an agency, independent of municipal or county law enforcement agencies, to be formed for use by any officer involved in an incident producing personal or job-related depression, anxiety, or other emotional strains. Agency services will include post-traumatic debriefing and counseling services. Counties choosing to establish a program must also create an advisory council to assist with program implementation.

In addition, the legislation requires an officer involved in a critical incident, such as the firing of a weapon, a hostage situation, or incident involving serious or fatal injuries to a juvenile, to utilize the services before returning to active duty.

A-1801, sponsored by Assembly Members Clare M. Farragher (R- Monmouth) and Steve Corodemus (R-Monmouth) and Senators Joseph M. Kyrillos, Jr. (R-Middlesex/ Monmouth) and Norman M. Robertson (R- Essex/Passaic) directs Personnel Commissioner Janice Mintz to establish a 24-hour telephone hotline for law enforcement officers dealing with emotional or psychological problems.

Callers will speak to people familiar with the problems likely to trouble law enforcement officers. The hotline will maintain the confidentiality of callers, but will allow for the tracking of officers who exhibit severe problems that may put themselves or others at risk. Funding for the hotline will be provided to the Department of Personnel from the Body Armor Replacement Fund.