

52:17B-194

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECK Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

LAWS OF: 1999 **CHAPTER:** 329

NJSA: 52:17B-194 (Child abduction – State program)

BILL NO: S6 (Substituted for A2799)

SPONSOR(S): DiFrancesco and Matheussen

DATE INTRODUCED: December 10, 1998

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Appropriations

SENATE: Budget & Appropriations; Law & Public Safety

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** December 13, 1999

SENATE: June 21, 1999

DATE OF APPROVAL: January 7, 2000

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL: First Reprint
(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

S6

SPONSORS STATEMENT: (Begins on page 3 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** [Yes](#) [12-2-99 \(Appropriations\)](#)

SENATE: [Yes](#) [5-20-99 \(Budget & App.\)](#)
[Yes](#) [5-20-99 \(Law & Pub. Safety\)](#)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: [Yes](#)

A2799

SPONSORS STATEMENT: (Begins on page 3 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** [Yes](#) [\(Senior Issues\) 5-17-99](#)
Identical to Senate Law & Public Safety Statement for S6

[Yes](#) [\(Appropriations\) 12-2-99](#)
Identical to Assembly Appropriations Statement for S6

SENATE: No

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: [Yes](#)
Identical to Fiscal Estimate for S6

VETO MESSAGE:

No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:

Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext. 103 or refdesk@njstatelib.org

REPORTS:

No

HEARINGS:

No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

No

P.L. 1999, CHAPTER 329, *approved January 7, 2000*
Senate, No. 6 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** to assist law enforcement agencies in recovering abducted
2 children, supplementing chapter 17B of Title 52 of the Revised
3 Statutes and making an appropriation.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. a. The Legislature finds and determines that:
9 Child abduction is an unconscionable and horrendous crime;
10 Parents, and all concerned adults, must be ever alert and vigilant to
11 protect children, who by nature are unsuspecting and trusting, from
12 those who would prey on them;

13 Despite all the attention and care, reports of child abductions and
14 missing children seem to be on the rise;

15 Experts and law enforcement officials agree that the most critical
16 moments in the search for an abducted child are the hours immediately
17 after the disappearance, so critical, in fact, that one FBI official has
18 asserted that if an abducted child is not found within two to four hours
19 the chance of recovering that child alive is not good;

20 The ability to instantly create high quality photos and posters of a
21 missing child and to disseminate them quickly throughout the
22 community, the region, the State and even the nation is one of the
23 most effective tools available to law enforcement agencies engaged in
24 child recovery operations; and

25 Technology is now available which enables law enforcement
26 agencies to mount fast, effective and coordinated responses to reports
27 of missing or abducted children.

28 b. The Legislature declares that:

29 One of society's greatest responsibilities is to protect children;

30 With an estimated 2,300 child abductions occurring every day in the
31 United States, this crime constitutes one of the primary threats to child
32 safety and to the sense of security and well-being every family
33 deserves and should rightfully expect; and

34 It is, therefore, altogether fitting and proper, and within the public
35 interest, to establish a State aid program to assist law enforcement
36 agencies in New Jersey in acquiring the technological tools necessary
37 to combat child abductions and to mount fast, effective and
38 coordinated responses to reports of missing or abducted children.

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 SBA committee amendments adopted May 20, 1999.

1 2. a. The Division of State Police in the Department of Law and
2 Public Safety shall organize and establish a technology center to
3 coordinate and assist law enforcement agencies in their responses to
4 reports of missing children and in their efforts to recover abducted
5 children.

6 The technology utilized in the center shall be of a type endorsed by
7 the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and shall
8 embody, but not be limited to:

9 (1) a system to send and receive highly recognizable color and
10 black and white photographic images of missing and abducted
11 children;

12 (2) a forced delivery system that provides for the spontaneous,
13 automatic reception of photographic images of missing and abducted
14 children by all participating law enforcement agencies and forces;

15 (3) demonstrably user-friendly components which law enforcement
16 officers can quickly and easily become proficient in using; and

17 (4) ready compatibility with existing systems.

18 b. The governing body of any municipality which has a law
19 enforcement agency or force and wishes to secure access to the State
20 Police technology center in order to participate in that centralized
21 program to coordinate and assist law enforcement agencies in their
22 responses to reports of missing children and in their efforts to recover
23 abducted children may apply to the Attorney General for State aid to
24 purchase the appropriate computer technology, both hardware and
25 software, to access the State Police technology center and participate
26 in the program. Application shall be made in a manner and form
27 prescribed by the Attorney General.

28 c. The Attorney General shall adopt guidelines to effectuate the
29 purposes of this act.

30

31 3. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, there ¹~~are~~ is¹
32 appropriated ¹to the Department of Law and Public Safety¹ from the
33 undesignated surplus balances in the Safe Neighborhoods Services
34 Fund, created pursuant to P.L.1993, c.220 (C.52:17B-163), ¹~~such~~
35 moneys as are necessary the amount of \$3,500,000¹ to effectuate the
36 purposes of this act. ¹To the extent that undesignated surplus
37 balances in the Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund are insufficient to
38 support the amount appropriated, the appropriation shall be made from
39 the General Fund. Of the amount appropriated, the sum of \$325,000
40 is allocated to the Division of State Police for the purchase of
41 equipment, as the Attorney General shall designate, necessary to
42 implement the provisions of subsection a. of section 2 of this act.¹

43

44 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

1

2

3 Establishes State program to assist local law enforcement agencies in
4 combatting child abductions.

SENATE, No. 6

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 10, 1998

Sponsored by:

Senator DONALD T. DIFRANCESCO

District 22 (Middlesex, Morris, Somerset and Union)

Senator JOHN J. MATHEUSSEN

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Inverso, Singer, Bucco, Allen, Sinagra, Martin, Kyrillos, Cafiero,

Kavanaugh, Kosco, Robertson, Cielsa, Gormley, Bennett, Bassano,

Palaia, Bark, Cardinale, Connors and McNamara

SYNOPSIS

Establishes State program to assist local law enforcement agencies in combatting child abductions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/11/1999)

1 AN ACT to assist law enforcement agencies in recovering abducted
2 children, supplementing chapter 17B of Title 52 of the Revised
3 Statutes and making an appropriation.

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

7
8 1. a. The Legislature finds and determines that:

9 Child abduction is an unconscionable and horrendous crime;
10 Parents, and all concerned adults, must be ever alert and vigilant to
11 protect children, who by nature are unsuspecting and trusting, from
12 those who would prey on them;

13 Despite all the attention and care, reports of child abductions and
14 missing children seem to be on the rise;

15 Experts and law enforcement officials agree that the most critical
16 moments in the search for an abducted child are the hours immediately
17 after the disappearance, so critical, in fact, that one FBI official has
18 asserted that if an abducted child is not found within two to four hours
19 the chance of recovering that child alive is not good;

20 The ability to instantly create high quality photos and posters of a
21 missing child and to disseminate them quickly throughout the
22 community, the region, the State and even the nation is one of the
23 most effective tools available to law enforcement agencies engaged in
24 child recovery operations; and

25 Technology is now available which enables law enforcement
26 agencies to mount fast, effective and coordinated responses to reports
27 of missing or abducted children.

28 b. The Legislature declares that:

29 One of society's greatest responsibilities is to protect children;

30 With an estimated 2,300 child abductions occurring every day in the
31 United States, this crime constitutes one of the primary threats to child
32 safety and to the sense of security and well-being every family
33 deserves and should rightfully expect; and

34 It is, therefore, altogether fitting and proper, and within the public
35 interest, to establish a State aid program to assist law enforcement
36 agencies in New Jersey in acquiring the technological tools necessary
37 to combat child abductions and to mount fast, effective and
38 coordinated responses to reports of missing or abducted children.

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40 2. a. The Division of State Police in the Department of Law and
41 Public Safety shall organize and establish a technology center to
42 coordinate and assist law enforcement agencies in their responses to
43 reports of missing children and in their efforts to recover abducted
44 children.

45 The technology utilized in the center shall be of a type endorsed by
46 the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and shall

1 embody, but not be limited to:

2 (1) a system to send and receive highly recognizable color and
3 black and white photographic images of missing and abducted
4 children;

5 (2) a forced delivery system that provides for the spontaneous,
6 automatic reception of photographic images of missing and abducted
7 children by all participating law enforcement agencies and forces;

8 (3) demonstrably user-friendly components which law enforcement
9 officers can quickly and easily become proficient in using; and

10 (4) ready compatibility with existing systems.

11 b. The governing body of any municipality which has a law
12 enforcement agency or force and wishes to secure access to the State
13 Police technology center in order to participate in that centralized
14 program to coordinate and assist law enforcement agencies in their
15 responses to reports of missing children and in their efforts to recover
16 abducted children may apply to the Attorney General for State aid to
17 purchase the appropriate computer technology, both hardware and
18 software, to access the State Police technology center and participate
19 in the program. Application shall be made in a manner and form
20 prescribed by the Attorney General.

21 c. The Attorney General shall adopt guidelines to effectuate the
22 purposes of this act.

23

24 3. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, there are
25 appropriated from the undesignated surplus balances in the Safe
26 Neighborhoods Services Fund, created pursuant to P.L.1993, c.220
27 (C.52:17B-163), such moneys as are necessary to effectuate the
28 purposes of this act.

29

30 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

31

32

33

STATEMENT

34

35 This bill would establish a State aid program to assist local law
36 enforcement agencies in acquiring the computer technology, both
37 hardware and software, necessary to coordinate, through a technical
38 center organized and operated by the State Police, their efforts in
39 responding to reports of missing children and in recovering abducted
40 children.

41 Child abductions are a major law enforcement problem. It is
42 estimated that there are 2,300 child abductions occurring every day in
43 the United States. Speedy action is the key to the successful recovery
44 of an abducted child. According to an officer in the FBI's Child
45 Abduction Unit, if an abducted child is not recovered within the first
46 two to four hours, the likelihood of that child's safe return is

1 diminished.

2 A key element in law enforcement's speedy response and reaction
3 is the quality of the photograph distributed. Most police stations rely
4 on primitive tools to broadcast a photo of the missing child. The
5 picture all too often is pasted on a page setting forth basic information
6 relating to the child which, in turn, is photocopied by the police. The
7 copier, while printing the text clearly, muddies the photo. The
8 photocopied page is then run through a fax machine, which further
9 blurs the image, rendering it nearly useless as a tool for recognizing
10 the child.

11 This bill directs the State Police to establish and operate a
12 technology center to coordinate and assist local law enforcement
13 agencies in responding to reports of missing children and in their
14 efforts to recover abducted children. The bill specifies that the
15 technology utilized should be of a type endorsed by the National
16 Center for Missing and Exploited Children and should embody: (1)
17 a system to send and receive highly recognizable color and black and
18 white photographic images of missing and abducted children; (2) a
19 forced delivery system that provides for the spontaneous, automatic
20 reception of photographic images of missing and abducted children by
21 all participating law enforcement agencies and forces; (3)
22 demonstrably user-friendly components which law enforcement
23 officers can quickly and easily become proficient in using; and
24 (4) ready compatibility with existing systems.

25 The bill appropriates undesignated balances in the Safe
26 Neighborhoods Services Fund to carry out the purposes of the bill.

27 Getting high-quality photos and flyers out in the community quickly
28 is critical. Most successful recoveries occur within, or near, the
29 community where the abduction took place.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 6

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 2, 1999

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 6 (1R).

Senate Bill No. 6 (1R) directs the State Police to establish and operate a technology center to coordinate and assist local law enforcement agencies in responding to reports of missing children and in their efforts to recover abducted children. The bill specifies that the technology used should be of a type endorsed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and should embody (1) a system to send and receive highly recognizable photographic images of missing and abducted children, (2) a forced delivery system that provides for the spontaneous, automatic reception of photographic images of missing and abducted children by all participating law enforcement agencies and forces, (3) demonstrably user-friendly components that law enforcement officers can quickly and easily become proficient in using, and (4) ready compatibility with existing systems.

The bill provides that any municipality with a law enforcement agency may apply to the Attorney General for State aid to purchase the computer hardware and software necessary to access the technology center and to participate in the program of State Police coordination of and assistance to local efforts to report and recover missing or abducted children.

The bill appropriates \$3.5 million from the Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund to the Department of Law and Public Safety.

As reported by the committee, the bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2799, as amended and reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill appropriates \$3.5 million from the Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund to the Department of Law and Public Safety to effectuate the purposes of the legislation; if the undesignated balances in the fund are insufficient to support the full amount of the appropriation, the remainder would be paid from the General Fund. It is not anticipated that the provision requiring payment from the General Fund of any portion of this appropriation not covered by

undesignated balances in the Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund will entail any actual liability for the General Fund, as the balance in the former fund as of the end of November 1999 is slightly over \$4 million.

The Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund was established in 1993 under New Jersey's "Safe and Secure Communities Act;" it serves as the depository for federal grants for which this State is eligible for purposes within the purview of the act. The general purpose of the "Safe and Secure Communities Act" is to provide assistance to municipalities for law enforcement projects; among the objectives such projects are to accomplish is "targeting law enforcement activities toward the specific needs of persons who live . . . in a particular neighborhood, such as children" N.J.S.A.52:17B-162.

The bill allocates \$325,000 of the appropriation to the Division of State Police for the purchase of equipment, as the Attorney General shall designate, necessary to implement the law enforcement purposes of the legislation.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 6

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 20, 1999

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 6.

This bill directs the State Police to establish and operate a technology center to coordinate and assist local law enforcement agencies in responding to reports of missing children and in their efforts to recover abducted children. The bill specifies that the technology utilized should be of a type endorsed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and should embody (1) a system to send and receive highly recognizable photographic images of missing and abducted children, (2) a forced delivery system that provides for the spontaneous, automatic reception of photographic images of missing and abducted children by all participating law enforcement agencies and forces, (3) demonstrably user-friendly components which law enforcement officers can quickly and easily become proficient in using, and (4) ready compatibility with existing systems.

The bill provides that any municipality with a law enforcement agency may apply to the Attorney General for State aid to purchase the computer hardware and software necessary to access the technology center and to participate in the program of State Police coordination of and assistance to local efforts to report and recover missing or abducted children.

As amended, the bill appropriates to the Department of Law and Public Safety \$3.5 million from the Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund to effectuate the purposes of the legislation; if the undesignated balances in the fund are insufficient to support the full amount of the appropriation, the remainder would be paid from the General Fund. The Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund was established in 1993 under New Jersey's "Safe and Secure Communities Act"; it is a nonlapsing fund that serves as the depository for federal grants for which this State is eligible for purposes within the purview of the act. The general purpose of the "Safe and Secure Communities Act" is to provide assistance to municipalities for law enforcement projects; among the objectives such projects are to accomplish is "targeting law enforcement activities toward the specific needs of persons who live

. . . in a particular neighborhood, such as children" N.J.S.A.52:17B-162. The bill allocates \$325,000 of the appropriation to the Division of State Police for the purchase of equipment, as the Attorney General shall designate, necessary to implement the law enforcement purposes of the legislation.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Committee amendments (1) replace general language in the bill as introduced appropriating "such moneys as are necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act" with the specific appropriation of \$3.5 million, and (2) incorporate the allocation of \$325,000 to the Division of State Police for the purchase of necessary equipment.

FISCAL IMPACT

This bill, as amended, appropriates \$3.5 million from the Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund. It is not anticipated that the provision requiring payment from the General Fund of any portion of this appropriation not covered by undesignated balances in the Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund will entail any actual liability for the General Fund, since the balance in the former fund as of the end of May 1999 is slightly over \$7 million.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 6

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 20, 1999

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 6.

This bill establishes a State aid program to assist local law enforcement agencies in acquiring the computer technology necessary to coordinate, through a technical center organized and operated by the State Police, their efforts in responding to reports of missing children and in recovering abducted children.

Child abductions are a major law enforcement problem. It is estimated that there are 2,300 child abductions occurring every day in the United States. Speedy action is the key to the successful recovery of an abducted child. According to an officer in the FBI's Child Abduction Unit, if an abducted child is not recovered within the first two to four hours, the likelihood of that child's safe return is diminished.

A key element in law enforcement's speedy response and reaction is the quality of the photograph distributed. Most police stations rely on primitive tools to broadcast a photo of the missing child. The picture all too often is pasted on a page setting forth basic information relating to the child which, in turn, is photocopied by the police. The copier, while printing the text clearly, muddies the photo. The photocopied page is then run through a fax machine, which further blurs the image, rendering it nearly useless as a tool for recognizing the child.

This bill directs the State Police to establish and operate a technology center to coordinate and assist local law enforcement agencies in responding to reports of missing children and in their efforts to recover abducted children. The bill specifies that the technology utilized should be of a type endorsed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and should embody: (1) a system to send and receive highly recognizable color and black and white photographic images of missing and abducted children; (2) a forced delivery system that provides for the spontaneous, automatic reception of photographic images of missing and abducted children by all participating law enforcement agencies and forces; (3) demonstrably user-friendly components which law enforcement officers can quickly and easily become proficient in using; and (4) ready compatibility with existing systems.

The bill appropriates undesignated balances in the Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund to carry out its purposes.

It is the committee's understanding that getting high-quality photos and flyers out into the community quickly is critical, because most successful recoveries occur within or near the community where the abduction took place.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 6

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

208th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JULY 6, 1999

Senate Bill No. 6 (1R) of 1998 directs the State Police to establish and operate a technology center to coordinate and assist local law enforcement agencies in responding to reports of missing children and in their efforts to recover abducted children. The bill specifies that the technology utilized should be of a type endorsed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and should embody (1) a system to send and receive highly recognizable photographic images of missing and abducted children, (2) a forced delivery system that provides for the spontaneous, automatic reception of photographic images of missing and abducted children by all participating law enforcement agencies and forces, (3) demonstrably user-friendly components which law enforcement officers can quickly and easily become proficient in using, and (4) ready compatibility with existing systems.

The bill provides that any municipality with a law enforcement agency may apply to the Attorney General for State aid to purchase the computer hardware and software necessary to secure access to the technology center and to participate in the program of State Police coordination of and assistance to local efforts to report and recover missing or abducted children.

The bill appropriates to the Department of Law and Public Safety \$3.5 million from the Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund to effectuate the purposes of the legislation. If the undesignated balances in the fund are insufficient to fund the full appropriation, the remainder would be appropriated from the General Fund. The Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund was established in 1993 under New Jersey's "Safe and Secure Communities Act" as the repository of the penalties, State appropriations and other monies provided to carry out the purposes of the act. The "Safe and Secure Communities Act" provides assistance to municipalities for the salaries of police hiring and other law enforcement personnel.

The bill allocates \$325,000 of the appropriation to the Division of State Police for the purchase of equipment, as the Attorney General

shall designate, necessary to implement the law enforcement purposes of the legislation.

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that approximately \$2 million may be available in the Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund to fund the purposes of this bill in FY 2000. This estimate is based on current and projected fund balances and anticipated expenditures. It is estimated that a General Fund appropriation of approximately \$1.5 million will be needed to carry out the purposes of this act.

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2799

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 12, 1999

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Morris and Somerset)

Assemblyman PAUL DIGAETANO

District 36 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Biondi, Garrett, Kelly, Merkt, Malone, Asselta, Augustine,

Bagger, Cottrell, Gibson, O'Toole, Weingarten, Assemblywoman Crecco,

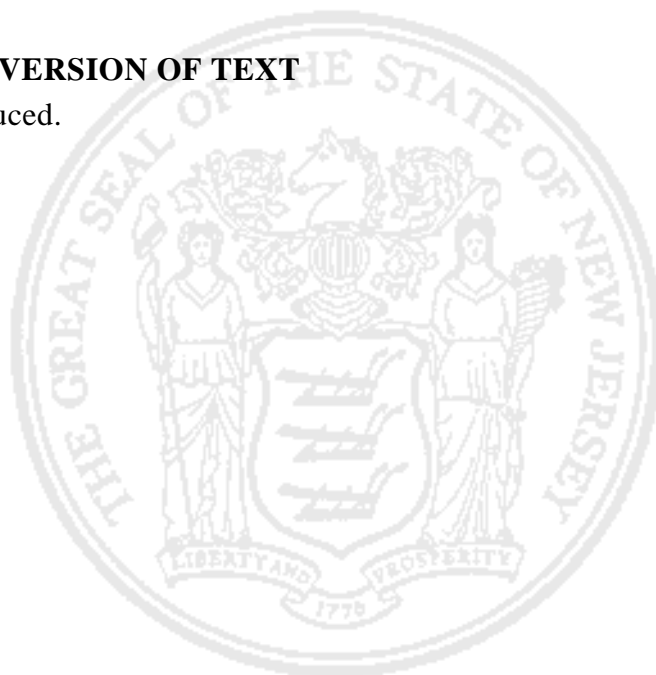
Assemblymen Holzapfel, Wolfe and LeFevre

SYNOPSIS

Establishes State program to assist local law enforcement agencies in combatting child abductions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/11/1999)

1 AN ACT to assist law enforcement agencies in recovering abducted
2 children, supplementing chapter 17B of Title 52 of the Revised
3 Statutes and making an appropriation.

4

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

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8 1. a. The Legislature finds and determines that:

9 Child abduction is an unconscionable and horrendous crime;

10 Parents, and all concerned adults, must be ever alert and vigilant to
11 protect children, who by nature are unsuspecting and trusting, from
12 those who would prey on them;

13 Despite all the attention and care, reports of child abductions and
14 missing children seem to be on the rise;

15 Experts and law enforcement officials agree that the most critical
16 moments in the search for an abducted child are the hours immediately
17 after the disappearance, so critical, in fact, that one FBI official has
18 asserted that if an abducted child is not found within two to four hours
19 the chance of recovering that child alive is not good;

20 The ability to instantly create high quality photos and posters of a
21 missing child and to disseminate them quickly throughout the
22 community, the region, the State and even the nation is one of the
23 most effective tools available to law enforcement agencies engaged in
24 child recovery operations; and

25 Technology is now available which enables law enforcement
26 agencies to mount fast, effective and coordinated responses to reports
27 of missing or abducted children.

28 b. The Legislature declares that:

29 One of society's greatest responsibilities is to protect children;

30 With an estimated 2,300 child abductions occurring every day in the
31 United States, this crime constitutes one of the primary threats to child
32 safety and to the sense of security and well-being every family
33 deserves and should rightfully expect; and

34 It is, therefore, altogether fitting and proper, and within the public
35 interest, to establish a State aid program to assist law enforcement
36 agencies in New Jersey in acquiring the technological tools necessary
37 to combat child abductions and to mount fast, effective and
38 coordinated responses to reports of missing or abducted children.

39

40 2. a. The Division of State Police in the Department of Law and
41 Public Safety shall organize and establish a technology center to
42 coordinate and assist law enforcement agencies in their responses to
43 reports of missing children and in their efforts to recover abducted
44 children.

45 The technology utilized in the center shall be of a type endorsed by
46 the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and shall

1 embody, but not be limited to:

2 (1) a system to send and receive highly recognizable color and
3 black and white photographic images of missing and abducted
4 children;

5 (2) a forced delivery system that provides for the spontaneous,
6 automatic reception of photographic images of missing and abducted
7 children by all participating law enforcement agencies and forces;

8 (3) demonstrably user-friendly components which law enforcement
9 officers can quickly and easily become proficient in using; and

10 (4) ready compatibility with existing systems.

11 b. The governing body of any municipality which has a law
12 enforcement agency or force and wishes to secure access to the State
13 Police technology center in order to participate in that centralized
14 program to coordinate and assist law enforcement agencies in their
15 responses to reports of missing children and in their efforts to recover
16 abducted children may apply to the Attorney General for State aid to
17 purchase the appropriate computer technology, both hardware and
18 software, to access the State Police technology center and participate
19 in the program. Application shall be made in a manner and form
20 prescribed by the Attorney General.

21 c. The Attorney General shall adopt guidelines to effectuate the
22 purposes of this act.

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24 3. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, there are
25 appropriated from the undesignated surplus balances in the Safe
26 Neighborhoods Services Fund, created pursuant to P.L.1993, c.220
27 (C.52:17B-163), such moneys as are necessary to effectuate the
28 purposes of this act.

29

30 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

31

32

33

STATEMENT

34

35 This bill would establish a State aid program to assist local law
36 enforcement agencies in acquiring the computer technology, both
37 hardware and software, necessary to coordinate, through a technical
38 center organized and operated by the State Police, their efforts in
39 responding to reports of missing children and in recovering abducted
40 children.

41 Child abductions are a major law enforcement problem. It is
42 estimated that there are 2,300 child abductions occurring every day in
43 the United States. Speedy action is the key to the successful recovery
44 of an abducted child. According to an officer in the FBI's Child
45 Abduction Unit, if an abducted child is not recovered within the first
46 two to four hours, the likelihood of that child's safe return is

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3 is the quality of the photograph distributed. Most police stations rely
4 on primitive tools to broadcast a photo of the missing child. The
5 picture all too often is pasted on a page setting forth basic information
6 relating to the child which, in turn, is photocopied by the police. The
7 copier, while printing the text clearly, muddies the photo. The
8 photocopied page is then run through a fax machine, which further
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16 Center for Missing and Exploited Children and should embody: (1)
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19 forced delivery system that provides for the spontaneous, automatic
20 reception of photographic images of missing and abducted children by
21 all participating law enforcement agencies and forces; (3)
22 demonstrably user-friendly components which law enforcement
23 officers can quickly and easily become proficient in using; and
24 (4) ready compatibility with existing systems.

25 The bill appropriates undesignated balances in the Safe
26 Neighborhoods Services Fund to carry out the purposes of the bill.

27 Getting high-quality photos and flyers out in the community quickly
28 is critical. Most successful recoveries occur within, or near, the
29 community where the abduction took place.

ASSEMBLY SENIOR ISSUES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2799

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 17, 1999

The Assembly Senior Issues and Community Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2799.

This bill would establish a State aid program to assist local law enforcement agencies in acquiring the computer technology, both hardware and software, necessary to coordinate, through a technical center organized and operated by the State Police, their efforts in responding to reports of missing children and in recovering abducted children.

Child abductions are a major law enforcement problem. It is estimated that there are 2,300 child abductions occurring every day in the United States. Speedy action is the key to the successful recovery of an abducted child. According to the FBI's Child Abduction Unit, if an abducted child is not recovered within the first two to four hours, the likelihood of that child's safe return is diminished.

A key element in law enforcement's speedy response and reaction is the quality of the photograph distributed. Most police stations rely on primitive tools to broadcast a photo of the missing child. The picture all too often is pasted on a page setting forth basic information relating to the child which, in turn, is photocopied by the police. The copier, while printing the text clearly, muddies the photo. The photocopied page is then run through a fax machine, which further blurs the image, rendering it nearly useless as a tool for recognizing the child.

Getting high quality photos and flyers out in the community quickly is critical. Most successful recoveries occur within or near the community where abduction took place.

This bill directs the State Police to establish and operate a technology center to coordinate and assist law enforcement agencies in responding to reports of missing children and in their efforts to recover abducted children. The bill specifies that the technology utilized should be of a type endorsed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and should embody: (1) a system to send and receive highly recognizable color and black and white photographic images of missing and abducted children; (2) a forced delivery system that provides for the spontaneous, automatic reception

of photographic images of missing and abducted children by all participating law enforcement agencies and forces; (3) demonstrably user-friendly components which law enforcement officers can quickly and easily become proficient in using; and
(4) ready compatibility with existing systems.

The bill appropriates undesignated surplus balances in the Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund to carry out the purposes of the bill. The Attorney General is given rule making authority to effectuate the purposes of the bill.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2799

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 2, 1999

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2799 with committee amendments.

Assembly Bill No. 2799, as amended, directs the State Police to establish and operate a technology center to coordinate and assist local law enforcement agencies in responding to reports of missing children and in their efforts to recover abducted children. The bill specifies that the technology used should be of a type endorsed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and should embody (1) a system to send and receive highly recognizable photographic images of missing and abducted children, (2) a forced delivery system that provides for the spontaneous, automatic reception of photographic images of missing and abducted children by all participating law enforcement agencies and forces, (3) demonstrably user-friendly components that law enforcement officers can quickly and easily become proficient in using, and (4) ready compatibility with existing systems.

The bill provides that any municipality with a law enforcement agency may apply to the Attorney General for State aid to purchase the computer hardware and software necessary to access the technology center and to participate in the program of State Police coordination of and assistance to local efforts to report and recover missing or abducted children.

The bill appropriates \$3.5 million from the Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund to the Department of Law and Public Safety.

As amended and reported by the committee, the bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 6 (1R) as reported by the committee.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill appropriates \$3.5 million from the Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund to the Department of Law and Public Safety to effectuate the purposes of the legislation; if the undesignated balances in the fund are insufficient to support the full amount of the appropriation, the remainder would be paid from the General Fund. It is not anticipated that the provision requiring payment from the General Fund of any portion of this appropriation not covered by

undesignated balances in the Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund will entail any actual liability for the General Fund, as the balance in the former fund as of the end of November 1999 is slightly over \$4 million.

The Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund was established in 1993 under New Jersey's "Safe and Secure Communities Act;" it serves as the depository for federal grants for which this State is eligible for purposes within the purview of the act. The general purpose of the "Safe and Secure Communities Act" is to provide assistance to municipalities for law enforcement projects; among the objectives such projects are to accomplish is "targeting law enforcement activities toward the specific needs of persons who live . . . in a particular neighborhood, such as children" N.J.S.A.52:17B-162.

The bill allocates \$325,000 of the appropriation to the Division of State Police for the purchase of equipment, as the Attorney General shall designate, necessary to implement the law enforcement purposes of the legislation.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The amendments replace general language appropriating "such moneys as are necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act" with the specific appropriation of \$3.5 million, of which \$325,000 is allocated to the Division of State Police for the purchase of necessary equipment.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2799

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

208th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JANUARY 10, 2000

Assembly Bill No. 2799 (1R) of 1999 directs the State Police to establish and operate a technology center to coordinate and assist local law enforcement agencies in responding to reports of missing children and in their efforts to recover abducted children. The bill specifies that the technology utilized should be of a type endorsed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and should embody (1) a system to send and receive highly recognizable photographic images of missing and abducted children, (2) a forced delivery system that provides for the spontaneous, automatic reception of photographic images of missing and abducted children by all participating law enforcement agencies and forces, (3) demonstrably user-friendly components which law enforcement officers can quickly and easily become proficient in using, and (4) ready compatibility with existing systems.

The bill provides that any municipality with a law enforcement agency may apply to the Attorney General for State aid to purchase the computer hardware and software necessary to secure access to the technology center and to participate in the program of State Police coordination of and assistance to local efforts to report and recover missing or abducted children.

The bill appropriates to the Department of Law and Public Safety \$3.5 million from the Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund to effectuate the purposes of the legislation. If the undesignated balances in the fund are insufficient to fund the full appropriation, the remainder would be appropriated from the General Fund. The Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund was established in 1993 under New Jersey's "Safe and Secure Communities Act" as the repository of the penalties, State appropriations and other monies provided to carry out the purposes of the act. The "Safe and Secure Communities Act" provides assistance to municipalities for the salaries of police hiring and other law enforcement personnel.

The bill allocates \$325,000 of the appropriation to the Division of State Police for the purchase of equipment, as the Attorney General shall designate, necessary to implement the law enforcement purposes

of the legislation.

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that approximately \$2 million may be available in the Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund to fund the purposes of this bill in FY 2000. This estimate is based on current and projected fund balances and anticipated expenditures. It is estimated that a General Fund appropriation of approximately \$1.5 million will be needed to carry out the purposes of this act.

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.

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Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE: January 7, 2000

GOVERNOR SIGNS LEGISLATION APPROPRIATING \$3.5 MILLION FOR SYSTEM TO COMBAT CHILD ABDUCTIONS

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed legislation, which appropriates \$3.5 million to the Department of Law and Public Safety for the establishment of a state program to assist local enforcement agencies in combating child abductions.

"The safety and well-being of our children is of paramount importance and it is something that never can be taken for granted," said Gov. Whitman. "Through this program, local law enforcement agencies will be able to use state-of-the-art technology to trace missing and abducted children, recover them and return them to their parents or guardians as quickly as possible."

The program will be coordinated by the State Police, which will establish and operate a technology center to assist local law enforcement agencies in responding to reports of abducted children. The bill authorizes any municipal law enforcement agency that wishes to secure access to the State Police technology center to apply to the Attorney General for state aid to purchase the appropriate computer technology to permit such access.

Under the legislation, the technology utilized should be a type endorsed by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The technology should include a system to send and receive highly recognizable color and black and white photographic images of missing and abducted children, and a forced delivery system that provides for the spontaneous, automatic reception of photographic images of missing children by all participating law enforcement agencies and forces.

The legislation also requires the system to be user-friendly and readily compatible with existing systems.

The bill appropriates \$3.5 million to the Department of Law and Public Safety from the undesignated surplus balances in the Safe Neighborhoods Services Fund. It stipulates that if the undesignated balances are not sufficient to fund the appropriation, the amount should be provided from the General Fund.

The legislation, **S-6**, was sponsored by Senators Donald T. DiFrancesco (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and John J. Matheussen (R-Camden/Gloucester) and Assembly Members Christopher Bateman (R-Morris/Somerset) and Paul DiGaetano (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic).