



Safety **SENATE:** Yes Law & Public  
Appropriations Budget &

(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](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** Yes

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** Yes

"Gov. signs into law a trio of pro-cop bills," The Star-Ledger, January 22, 2020.

"Governor signs into law a trio of pro-police," South Jersey Times, January 22, 2020.

RWH/JA

P.L. 2019, CHAPTER 368, *approved January 20, 2020*  
Assembly, No. 1028 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning police training and supplementing Title 52 of  
2 the Revised Statutes.

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

6  
7 1. a. The Department of Law and Public Safety, in  
8 consultation with the Department of Human Services, shall  
9 establish a training curriculum designed to prevent suicide  
10 committed by law enforcement officers. The issues addressed in  
11 the training curriculum shall include, but not be limited to, the  
12 causes, behaviors, warning signs, and risk factors associated with  
13 officer suicide. In addition, the training curriculum shall:

14 1) identify appropriate intervention strategies to be used by law  
15 enforcement departments to effectively prevent officer suicide; and

16 2) provide information concerning programs that offer crisis  
17 intervention and counseling services to law enforcement officers.

18 b. The training curriculum established pursuant to subsection a.  
19 of this section shall be made available to each State, county, and  
20 municipal law enforcement department and each campus police  
21 department at an institution of higher education that appoints law  
22 enforcement officers pursuant to P.L.1970, c.211 (C.18A:6-4.2 et  
23 seq.) to be used as part of in-service training provided to each law  
24 enforcement officer in this State. The in-service training shall be  
25 administered to each law enforcement officer once every <sup>1</sup>**[10]**  
26 five<sup>1</sup> years following the officer's date of initial appointment.

27  
28 <sup>1</sup>2. a. The chief law enforcement officer or the chief law  
29 enforcement officer's designee of each State, county, and municipal  
30 law enforcement agency and campus police department at an  
31 institution of higher education that appoints law enforcement  
32 officers pursuant to P.L.1970, c.211 (C.18A:6-4.2 et seq.) shall  
33 report within a reasonable time to the Office of the Attorney  
34 General, in a manner prescribed by the Attorney General, any  
35 incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer  
36 employed by their respective agency or department. The report  
37 shall include:

**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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly ALP committee amendments adopted March 7, 2019.

- 1     (1) the month and year during which the law enforcement  
2 officer's death occurred;  
3     (2) the law enforcement officer's age, salary, and length of  
4 service with the law enforcement agency at the time of the officer's  
5 death;  
6     (3) the race and gender of the law enforcement officer;  
7     (4) any known facts pertaining to the cause or method of  
8 suicide; and  
9     (5) the veteran status and level of education of the law  
10 enforcement officer;  
11     b. The report required pursuant to subsection a. of this section  
12 shall not identify the law enforcement officer by name or date of  
13 birth.  
14     c. The Attorney General shall aggregate the data provided  
15 pursuant to subsection a. of this section, which aggregated data  
16 shall be made publicly available for use in suicide prevention and  
17 intervention studies.  
18     d. The reporting of a suicide pursuant to this section shall not  
19 replace or alter any other requirement of law, professional standard,  
20 or obligation that requires the law enforcement agency to evaluate a  
21 death or report a suicide.<sup>1</sup>

22  
23     <sup>1</sup>~~[2.]~~ 3.<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect on the first day of the  
24 seventh month following enactment.

25  
26  
27  
28  
29     Establishes training program to prevent suicide by law  
30 enforcement officer; requires reporting of law enforcement officer  
31 suicides to Attorney General.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1028

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Verrelli**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes training program to prevent suicide by law enforcement officer.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/16/2018)**

1 AN ACT concerning police training and supplementing Title 52 of  
2 the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Department of Law and Public Safety, in consultation  
8 with the Department of Human Services, shall establish a training  
9 curriculum designed to prevent suicide committed by law  
10 enforcement officers. The issues addressed in the training  
11 curriculum shall include, but not be limited to, the causes,  
12 behaviors, warning signs, and risk factors associated with officer  
13 suicide. In addition, the training curriculum shall:

14 1) identify appropriate intervention strategies to be used by law  
15 enforcement departments to effectively prevent officer suicide; and

16 2) provide information concerning programs that offer crisis  
17 intervention and counseling services to law enforcement officers.

18 b. The training curriculum established pursuant to subsection a.  
19 of this section shall be made available to each State, county, and  
20 municipal law enforcement department and each campus police  
21 department at an institution of higher education that appoints law  
22 enforcement officers pursuant to P.L.1970, c.211 (C.18A:6-4.2 et  
23 seq.) to be used as part of in-service training provided to each law  
24 enforcement officer in this State. The in-service training shall be  
25 administered to each law enforcement officer once every 10 years  
26 following the officer's date of initial appointment.

27

28 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh  
29 month following enactment.

30

31

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#### STATEMENT

33

34 This bill requires the Department of Law and Public Safety  
35 (DLPS), in consultation with the Department of Human Services, to  
36 establish a training curriculum designed to prevent suicide  
37 committed by law enforcement officers. The issues addressed in  
38 the training curriculum are to include the causes, behaviors,  
39 warning signs, and risk factors associated with officer suicide. In  
40 addition, the bill requires the training curriculum to: 1) identify  
41 appropriate intervention strategies to be used by law enforcement  
42 departments to effectively prevent officer suicide, and 2) provide  
43 information concerning programs that offer crisis intervention and  
44 counseling services to law enforcement officers.

45 Under the bill, DLPS is required to make the curriculum  
46 available to each State, county, municipal, and college campus law  
47 enforcement department to be used as part of in-service training for

**A1028 JOHNSON, PINKIN**

3

- 1 law enforcement officers. The bill requires the in-service training
- 2 to be administered to each law enforcement officer every 10 years
- 3 following the officer's date of initial appointment.

# ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 1028**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 7, 2019

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments, Assembly Bill No. 1028.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 1028 requires the Department of Law and Public Safety (DLPS), in consultation with the Department of Human Services, to establish a training curriculum designed to prevent suicide committed by law enforcement officers. In addition, the amended bill requires the chief law enforcement officer or a designee to report to the Office of the Attorney General any incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer employed by their respective agency or department.

The amended bill requires the training curriculum to include the causes, behaviors, warning signs, and risk factors associated with officer suicide. In addition, the training curriculum is required to: 1) identify appropriate intervention strategies to be used by law enforcement departments to effectively prevent officer suicide, and 2) provide information concerning programs that offer crisis intervention and counseling services to law enforcement officers.

Under the amended bill, the DLPS is required to make the curriculum available to each State, county, municipal, and college campus law enforcement department to be used as part of in-service training for law enforcement officers. The amended bill requires the in-service training to be administered to each law enforcement officer every five years following the officer's date of initial appointment.

The amended bill also requires the chief law enforcement officer of each State, county, and municipal law enforcement agency and campus police department to report within a reasonable time to the Office of the Attorney General any incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer employed by their respective agency or department. The report is required to include: the month and year during which the law enforcement officer's death occurred; the law enforcement officer's age, salary, and length of service with the law enforcement agency at the time of the officer's death; the race and gender of the law enforcement officer; any known facts pertaining to the cause or method of suicide; and the veteran status and level of education of the law enforcement officer. The amended bill prohibits



the report from identifying the law enforcement officer by name or date of birth.

Under the amended bill, the Attorney General is required to aggregate the data and make it publicly available for use in suicide prevention and intervention studies. The amended bill clarifies that the report is not to replace or alter any other requirement of law, professional standard, or obligation that requires the law enforcement agency to evaluate a death or report a suicide.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2018-2019 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments:

- 1) reduce from 10 to five the number of years the recurring in-service training is to be administered to each law enforcement officer following the officer's date of initial appointment; and
- 2) establish reporting requirements for every incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer.

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 1028

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 12, 2019

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1028.

This bill requires the Department of Law and Public Safety (DLPS), in consultation with the Department of Human Services, to establish a training curriculum designed to prevent suicide committed by law enforcement officers. In addition, the bill requires the chief law enforcement officer or a designee to report to the Office of the Attorney General any incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer employed by their respective agency or department.

The bill requires the training curriculum to include the causes, behaviors, warning signs, and risk factors associated with officer suicide. In addition, the training curriculum is required to: 1) identify appropriate intervention strategies to be used by law enforcement departments to effectively prevent officer suicide, and 2) provide information concerning programs that offer crisis intervention and counseling services to law enforcement officers.

Under the bill, the DLPS is required to make the curriculum available to each State, county, municipal, and college campus law enforcement department to be used as part of in-service training for law enforcement officers. The bill requires the in-service training to be administered to each law enforcement officer every five years following the officer's date of initial appointment.

The bill also requires the chief law enforcement officer of each State, county, and municipal law enforcement agency and campus police department to report within a reasonable time to the Office of the Attorney General any incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer employed by their respective agency or department. The report is required to include: the month and year during which the law enforcement officer's death occurred; the law enforcement officer's age, salary, and length of service with the law enforcement agency at the time of the officer's death; the race and gender of the law enforcement officer; any known facts pertaining to the cause or method of suicide; and the veteran status and level of education of the law enforcement officer. The bill prohibits the report from identifying the law enforcement officer by name or date of birth.

Under the bill, the Attorney General is required to aggregate the data and make it publicly available for use in suicide prevention and intervention studies. The bill clarifies that the report is not to replace or alter any other requirement of law, professional standard, or obligation that requires the law enforcement agency to evaluate a death or report a suicide.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that three provisions of the bill may increase expenditures by the State, local government entities, and public institutions of higher education.

First, the OLS projects that the bill may result in a one-time State expenditure increase to the Department of Law and Public Safety and the Department of Human Services to develop a training curriculum designed to prevent suicide committed by law enforcement officers. The OLS estimates that the expenditure increase will be minimal because the Police Training Commission's current training curriculum published online appears already to encompass most of the curriculum requirements set forth in this bill and the Attorney General recently announced the implementation of the New Jersey Resiliency Program for Law Enforcement, which provides mental health support and training.

Second, the bill requires the suicide prevention curriculum to be taught to each officer every five years following the officer's date of initial appointment as part of the officer's in-service training. It is unclear whether this requirement will result in additional in-service training hours. If so, then the State, local government entities, and public institutions of higher education would incur additional annual expenditures.

Third, the bill may increase the annual expenditures of the State, local government entities, and public institutions of higher education in requiring that each law enforcement agency and campus police department report to the Department of Law and Public Safety, in a manner to be prescribed by the department, any incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer employed by the respective agency or department. Depending on operating decisions, the Department of Law and Public Safety may incur additional annual expenditures in compiling the information.

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1028**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JANUARY 6, 2020

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1028 (1R).

This bill requires the Department of Law and Public Safety (DLPS), in consultation with the Department of Human Services, to establish a training curriculum designed to prevent suicide committed by law enforcement officers. In addition, the bill requires the chief law enforcement officer or a designee to report to the Office of the Attorney General any incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer employed by their respective agency or department.

The bill requires the training curriculum to include the causes, behaviors, warning signs, and risk factors associated with officer suicide. In addition, the training curriculum is required to: 1) identify appropriate intervention strategies to be used by law enforcement departments to effectively prevent officer suicide, and 2) provide information concerning programs that offer crisis intervention and counseling services to law enforcement officers.

Under the bill, the DLPS is required to make the curriculum available to each State, county, municipal, and college campus law enforcement department to be used as part of in-service training for law enforcement officers. The bill requires the in-service training to be administered to each law enforcement officer every five years following the officer's date of initial appointment.

The bill also requires the chief law enforcement officer of each State, county, and municipal law enforcement agency and campus police department to report within a reasonable time to the Office of the Attorney General any incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer employed by their respective agency or department. The report is required to include: the month and year during which the law enforcement officer's death occurred; the law enforcement officer's age, salary, and length of service with the law enforcement agency at the time of the officer's death; the race and gender of the law enforcement officer; any known facts pertaining to the cause or method of suicide; and the veteran status and level of education of the law enforcement officer. The bill prohibits the report from identifying the law enforcement officer by name or date of birth.

Under the bill, the Attorney General is required to aggregate the data and make it publicly available for use in suicide prevention and intervention studies. The bill clarifies that the report is not to replace or alter any other requirement of law, professional standard, or obligation that requires the law enforcement agency to evaluate a death or report a suicide.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 1028 (1R) is identical to Senate Bill No. 1730 (1R), which also was reported by the committee on this date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that three provisions of the bill may increase expenditures by the State, local government entities, and public institutions of higher education.

First, the OLS projects that the bill may result in a one-time State expenditure increase to the DLPS and the Department of Human Services to develop a training curriculum designed to prevent suicide committed by law enforcement officers. The OLS estimates that the expenditure increase will be minimal because the Police Training Commission's current training curriculum published online appears already to encompass most of the curriculum requirements set forth in this bill and the Attorney General recently announced the implementation of the New Jersey Resiliency Program for Law Enforcement, which provides mental health support and training.

Second, the bill requires the suicide prevention curriculum to be taught to each officer every five years following the officer's date of initial appointment as part of the officer's in-service training. It is unclear whether this requirement will result in additional in-service training hours. If so, then the State, local government entities, and public institutions of higher education would incur additional annual expenditures.

Third, the bill may increase the annual expenditures of the State, local government entities, and public institutions of higher education in requiring that each law enforcement agency and campus police department report to the DLPS, in a manner to be prescribed by the department, any incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer employed by the respective agency or department. Depending on operating decisions, the DLPS may incur additional annual expenditures in compiling the information.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 1028

### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

#### 218th LEGISLATURE

##### SUMMARY

DATED: DECEMBER 17, 2019

- Synopsis:** Establishes training program to prevent suicide by law enforcement officer; requires reporting of law enforcement officer suicides to Attorney General.
- Type of Impact:** One-time and Periodic State cost increases; periodic local cost increases; periodic cost increases for public institutions of higher education.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Law and Public Safety; Department of Human Services; County and Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies; Campus police departments at public institutions of higher education.

##### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Year 1</u></b>	<b><u>Year 2</u></b>	<b><u>Year 3</u></b>
<b>State, County, and Municipal Cost Increase</b>		Indeterminate	
<b>Public Institutions of Higher Education Cost Increase</b>		Indeterminate	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) projects that the bill may result in a one-time marginal State expenditure by the Department of Law and Public Safety (DLPS) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) to develop curriculum or update current law enforcement suicide prevention curriculum training programs. Any further periodic cost increases would result from the intermittent updating of the course curriculum, instruction, and examination.
- The OLS estimates the State's expenditure increase to be marginal because the Police Training Commission's (PTC) current training curriculum published online appears already to encompass most of the requirements set forth in this bill and the Attorney General recently announced implementation of the *New Jersey Resiliency Program for Law Enforcement*, which provides mental health support and training. The OLS estimates meeting the requirements of this bill may not be overly labor-intensive and the concerned departments may be able to absorb the additional workload within their existing operating budgets.

- The bill requires the in-service training be administered to each law enforcement officer every five years following the officer's date of initial appointment and so the timing of the associated costs will vary among law enforcement agencies.
- The bill requires the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to maintain records of any incident of a law enforcement officer's suicide Statewide as reported by the officer's respective agency and make the information publicly available for use in suicide prevention and intervention studies. The aggregation of this data should have only a marginal associated cost.

## **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill requires the DLPS, in consultation with the DHS, to establish a training curriculum designed to prevent suicide committed by law enforcement officers. In addition, the bill requires the chief law enforcement officer or a designee to report to the OAG any incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer employed by their respective agency or department.

The bill requires the training curriculum to include the causes, behaviors, warning signs, and risk factors associated with officer suicide. In addition, the training curriculum is required to: 1) identify appropriate intervention strategies to be used by law enforcement departments to effectively prevent officer suicide, and 2) provide information concerning programs that offer crisis intervention and counseling services to law enforcement officers.

Under the bill, the DLPS is required to make the curriculum available to each State, county, municipal, and college campus law enforcement department to be used as part of in-service training for law enforcement officers. The bill requires the in-service training to be administered to each law enforcement officer every five years following the officer's date of initial appointment.

The bill also requires the chief law enforcement officer of each State, county, and municipal law enforcement agency and campus police department to report within a reasonable time to the OAG any incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer employed by their respective agency or department. The report is required to include a specific list of collected information, but prohibits the report from identifying the law enforcement officer by name or date of birth.

Under the bill, the Attorney General is required to aggregate the data and make it publicly available for use in suicide prevention and intervention studies. The bill clarifies that the report is not to replace or alter any other requirement of law, professional standard, or obligation that requires the law enforcement agency to evaluate a death or report a suicide.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS projects that the bill may result in a one-time marginal State expenditure by the DLPS and the DHS to develop curriculum or update current law enforcement suicide prevention

curriculum training programs. Any further periodic cost increases would result from the intermittent updating of the course curriculum, instruction, and examination.

The OLS estimates the State's expenditure increase to be marginal because the PTC's current training curriculum published online appears already to encompass most of the requirements set forth in this bill and the OAG has recently announced a mental health support program for law enforcement officers in an effort to prevent suicides. The OLS cannot estimate the cost to develop and provide training to law enforcement officers or for the OAG to maintain records of law enforcement officers suicides; however, OLS estimates that meeting the requirements of this bill may not be overly labor-intensive and that the concerned departments may be able to absorb the additional workload within their existing operating budgets.

The PTC supervises the administration of basic police training programs. As part of that task, the commission is responsible for the development, periodic review and revision, and certification of basic training courses for county and local police, sheriffs' officers, state and county investigators, state and county corrections officers, juvenile detention officers, and a number of other law enforcement positions, as well as several instructor development courses. According to its website, PTC training courses are revised and updated on an ongoing basis as necessitated by legislation, court decisions, and advances in technology and the state of knowledge regarding law enforcement practices.

Further, in 2019 the *New Jersey Resiliency Program for Law Enforcement* was established by the OAG and requires that all New Jersey police officers finish a two-day training course on coping mechanisms by the end of 2022. The program also requires at least one member of every State, county chief resiliency officer who is responsible for the program locally so that law enforcement officers can connect with help if needed.

Since January 1, 2016, New Jersey has experienced 37 law enforcement suicides according to Blue H.E.L.P., a Massachusetts nonprofit dedicated to helping officers with PTSD, depression and other mental health struggles. Nationwide in 2019, there have been at least 212 law enforcement suicides in the United States. That figure, which includes 31 retired officers, puts the nation on pace for the highest total in at least the past four years. During the 2018 calendar year, 172 law enforcement officers committed suicide. The Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis (STOIC) Act was enacted July 2019. This federal legislation authorized up to \$7.5 million in grant funding a year for police suicide prevention efforts, mental health screenings, and training to identify officers at risk.

*Section: Law and Public Safety*  
*Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos*  
*Senior Fiscal Analyst*  
*Approved: Frank W. Haines III*  
*Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

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 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).



# SENATE, No. 1730

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 5, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LORETTA WEINBERG**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Senator STEVEN V. OROHO**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes training program to prevent suicide by law enforcement officer.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/31/2019)**

1 AN ACT concerning police training and supplementing Title 52 of  
2 the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Department of Law and Public Safety, in  
8 consultation with the Department of Human Services, shall  
9 establish a training curriculum designed to prevent suicide  
10 committed by law enforcement officers. The issues addressed in  
11 the training curriculum shall include, but not be limited to, the  
12 causes, behaviors, warning signs, and risk factors associated with  
13 officer suicide. In addition, the training curriculum shall:

14 1) identify appropriate intervention strategies to be used by law  
15 enforcement departments to effectively prevent officer suicide; and

16 2) provide information concerning programs that offer crisis  
17 intervention and counseling services to law enforcement officers.

18 b. The training curriculum established pursuant to subsection a.  
19 of this section shall be made available to each State, county, and  
20 municipal law enforcement department and each campus police  
21 department at an institution of higher education that appoints law  
22 enforcement officers pursuant to P.L.1970, c.211 (C.18A:6-4.2 et  
23 seq.) to be used as part of in-service training provided to each law  
24 enforcement officer in this State. The in-service training shall be  
25 administered to each law enforcement officer once every 10 years  
26 following the officer's date of initial appointment.

27

28 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh  
29 month following enactment.

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#### STATEMENT

33

34 This bill requires the Department of Law and Public Safety  
35 (DLPS), in consultation with the Department of Human Services, to  
36 establish a training curriculum designed to prevent suicide  
37 committed by law enforcement officers. The issues addressed in  
38 the training curriculum are to include the causes, behaviors,  
39 warning signs, and risk factors associated with officer suicide. In  
40 addition, the bill requires the training curriculum to: 1) identify  
41 appropriate intervention strategies to be used by law enforcement  
42 departments to effectively prevent officer suicide, and 2) provide  
43 information concerning programs that offer crisis intervention and  
44 counseling services to law enforcement officers.

45 Under the bill, DLPS is required to make the curriculum  
46 available to each State, county, municipal, and college campus law  
47 enforcement department to be used as part of in-service training for

**S1730 WEINBERG, OROHO**

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- 1 law enforcement officers. The bill requires the in-service training
- 2 to be administered to each law enforcement officer every 10 years
- 3 following the officer's date of initial appointment.

# SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 1730**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: NOVEMBER 18, 2019

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1730.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill requires the Department of Law and Public Safety (DLPS), in consultation with the Department of Human Services, to establish a training curriculum designed to prevent suicide committed by law enforcement officers. The issues addressed in the training curriculum are to include the causes, behaviors, warning signs, and risk factors associated with officer suicide. In addition, the bill requires the training curriculum to: 1) identify appropriate intervention strategies to be used by law enforcement departments to effectively prevent officer suicide, and 2) provide information concerning programs that offer crisis intervention and counseling services to law enforcement officers.

Under the bill, DLPS is required to make the curriculum available to each State, county, municipal, and college campus law enforcement department to be used as part of in-service training for law enforcement officers. As amended, the bill requires the in-service training to be administered to each law enforcement officer every five years following the officer's date of initial appointment.

The amended bill also requires the chief law enforcement officer of each State, county, and municipal law enforcement agency and campus police department to report within a reasonable time to the Office of the Attorney General any incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer employed by their respective agency or department. The report is required to include: the month and year during which the law enforcement officer's death occurred; the law enforcement officer's age, salary, and length of service with the law enforcement agency at the time of the officer's death; the race and gender of the law enforcement officer; any known facts pertaining to the cause or method of suicide; and the veteran status and level of education of the law enforcement officer. The amended bill prohibits the report from identifying the law enforcement officer by name or date of birth.

Under the amended bill, the Attorney General is required to aggregate the data and make it publicly available for use in suicide

prevention and intervention studies. The amended bill clarifies that the report is not to replace or alter any other requirement of law, professional standard, or obligation that requires the law enforcement agency to evaluate a death or report a suicide.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1028 (1R), as amended and reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on March 7, 2019.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments:

- 1) reduce from 10 to five the number of years the recurring in-service training is to be administered to each law enforcement officer following the officer's date of initial appointment; and
- 2) establish reporting requirements for every incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer.

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 1730**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JANUARY 6, 2020

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1730 (1R).

This bill requires the Department of Law and Public Safety (DLPS), in consultation with the Department of Human Services, to establish a training curriculum designed to prevent suicide committed by law enforcement officers. In addition, the bill requires the chief law enforcement officer or a designee to report to the Office of the Attorney General any incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer employed by their respective agency or department.

The bill requires the training curriculum to include the causes, behaviors, warning signs, and risk factors associated with officer suicide. In addition, the training curriculum is required to: 1) identify appropriate intervention strategies to be used by law enforcement departments to effectively prevent officer suicide, and 2) provide information concerning programs that offer crisis intervention and counseling services to law enforcement officers.

Under the bill, the DLPS is required to make the curriculum available to each State, county, municipal, and college campus law enforcement department to be used as part of in-service training for law enforcement officers. The bill requires the in-service training to be administered to each law enforcement officer every five years following the officer's date of initial appointment.

The bill also requires the chief law enforcement officer of each State, county, and municipal law enforcement agency and campus police department to report within a reasonable time to the Office of the Attorney General any incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer employed by their respective agency or department. The report is required to include: the month and year during which the law enforcement officer's death occurred; the law enforcement officer's age, salary, and length of service with the law enforcement agency at the time of the officer's death; the race and gender of the law enforcement officer; any known facts pertaining to the cause or method of suicide; and the veteran status and level of education of the law enforcement officer. The bill prohibits the report from identifying the law enforcement officer by name or date of birth.

Under the bill, the Attorney General is required to aggregate the data and make it publicly available for use in suicide prevention and intervention studies. The bill clarifies that the report is not to replace or alter any other requirement of law, professional standard, or obligation that requires the law enforcement agency to evaluate a death or report a suicide.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 1730 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1028 (1R), which also was reported by the committee on this date.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that three provisions of the bill may increase expenditures by the State, local government entities, and public institutions of higher education.

First, the OLS projects that the bill may result in a one-time State expenditure increase to the DLPS and the Department of Human Services to develop a training curriculum designed to prevent suicide committed by law enforcement officers. The OLS estimates that the expenditure increase will be minimal because the Police Training Commission's current training curriculum published online appears already to encompass most of the curriculum requirements set forth in this bill and the Attorney General recently announced the implementation of the New Jersey Resiliency Program for Law Enforcement, which provides mental health support and training.

Second, the bill requires the suicide prevention curriculum to be taught to each officer every five years following the officer's date of initial appointment as part of the officer's in-service training. It is unclear whether this requirement will result in additional in-service training hours. If so, then the State, local government entities, and public institutions of higher education would incur additional annual expenditures.

Third, the bill may increase the annual expenditures of the State, local government entities, and public institutions of higher education in requiring that each law enforcement agency and campus police department report to the DLPS, in a manner to be prescribed by the department, any incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer employed by the respective agency or department. Depending on operating decisions, the DLPS may incur additional annual expenditures in compiling the information.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

## SENATE, No. 1730 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 24, 2019

### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Establishes training program to prevent suicide by law enforcement officer; requires reporting of law enforcement officer suicides to Attorney General.
- Type of Impact:** One-time and Periodic State cost increases; periodic local cost increases; periodic cost increases for public institutions of higher education.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Law and Public Safety; Department of Human Services; County and Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies; Campus police departments at public institutions of higher education.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Year 1</u></b>	<b><u>Year 2</u></b>	<b><u>Year 3</u></b>
<b>State, County, and Municipal Cost Increase</b>			Indeterminate
<b>Public Institutions of Higher Education Cost Increase</b>			Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) projects that the bill may result in a one-time marginal State expenditure by the Department of Law and Public Safety (DLPS) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) to develop curriculum or update current law enforcement suicide prevention curriculum training programs. Any further periodic cost increases would result from the intermittent updating of the course curriculum, instruction, and examination.
- The OLS estimates the State's expenditure increase to be marginal because the Police Training Commission's (PTC) current training curriculum published online appears already to encompass most of the requirements set forth in this bill and the Attorney General recently announced implementation of the *New Jersey Resiliency Program for Law Enforcement*, which provides mental health support and training. The OLS estimates meeting the requirements of this bill may not be overly labor-intensive and the concerned departments may be able to absorb the additional workload within their existing operating budgets.



- The bill requires the in-service training be administered to each law enforcement officer every five years following the officer's date of initial appointment and so the timing of the associated costs will vary among law enforcement agencies.
- The bill requires the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to maintain records of any incident of a law enforcement officer's suicide Statewide as reported by the officer's respective agency and make the information publicly available for use in suicide prevention and intervention studies. The aggregation of this data should have only a marginal associated cost.

## **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill requires the DLPS, in consultation with the DHS, to establish a training curriculum designed to prevent suicide committed by law enforcement officers. In addition, the bill requires the chief law enforcement officer or a designee to report to the OAG any incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer employed by their respective agency or department.

The bill requires the training curriculum to include the causes, behaviors, warning signs, and risk factors associated with officer suicide. In addition, the training curriculum is required to: 1) identify appropriate intervention strategies to be used by law enforcement departments to effectively prevent officer suicide, and 2) provide information concerning programs that offer crisis intervention and counseling services to law enforcement officers.

Under the bill, the DLPS is required to make the curriculum available to each State, county, municipal, and college campus law enforcement department to be used as part of in-service training for law enforcement officers. The bill requires the in-service training to be administered to each law enforcement officer every five years following the officer's date of initial appointment.

The bill also requires the chief law enforcement officer of each State, county, and municipal law enforcement agency and campus police department to report within a reasonable time to the OAG any incident of a completed suicide by a law enforcement officer employed by their respective agency or department. The report is required to include a specific list of collected information, but prohibits the report from identifying the law enforcement officer by name or date of birth.

Under the bill, the Attorney General is required to aggregate the data and make it publicly available for use in suicide prevention and intervention studies. The bill clarifies that the report is not to replace or alter any other requirement of law, professional standard, or obligation that requires the law enforcement agency to evaluate a death or report a suicide.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS projects that the bill may result in a one-time marginal State expenditure by the DLPS and the DHS to develop curriculum or update current law enforcement suicide prevention curriculum training programs. Any further periodic cost increases would result from the intermittent updating of the course curriculum, instruction, and examination.

The OLS estimates the State's expenditure increase to be marginal because the PTC's current training curriculum published online appears already to encompass most of the requirements set forth in this bill and the OAG has recently announced a mental health support program for law enforcement officers in an effort to prevent suicides. The OLS cannot estimate the cost to develop and provide training to law enforcement officers or for the OAG to maintain records of law enforcement officers suicides; however, OLS estimates that meeting the requirements of this bill may not be overly labor-intensive and that the concerned departments may be able to absorb the additional workload within their existing operating budgets.

The PTC supervises the administration of basic police training programs. As part of that task, the commission is responsible for the development, periodic review and revision, and certification of basic training courses for county and local police, sheriffs' officers, state and county investigators, state and county corrections officers, juvenile detention officers, and a number of other law enforcement positions, as well as several instructor development courses. According to its website, PTC training courses are revised and updated on an ongoing basis as necessitated by legislation, court decisions, and advances in technology and the state of knowledge regarding law enforcement practices.

Further, in 2019 the *New Jersey Resiliency Program for Law Enforcement* was established by the OAG and requires that all New Jersey police officers finish a two-day training course on coping mechanisms by the end of 2022. The program also requires at least one member of every State, county chief resiliency officer who is responsible for the program locally so that law enforcement officers can connect with help if needed.

Since January 1, 2016, New Jersey has experienced 37 law enforcement suicides according to Blue H.E.L.P., a Massachusetts nonprofit dedicated to helping officers with PTSD, depression and other mental health struggles. Nationwide in 2019, there have been at least 212 law enforcement suicides in the United States. That figure, which includes 31 retired officers, puts the nation on pace for the highest total in at least the past four years. During the 2018 calendar year, 172 law enforcement officers committed suicide. The Supporting and Treating Officers in Crisis (STOIC) Act was enacted July 2019. This federal legislation authorized up to \$7.5 million in grant funding a year for police suicide prevention efforts, mental health screenings, and training to identify officers at risk.

*Section: Law and Public Safety*  
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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 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

# Governor Murphy Signs Legislative Package to Support Law Enforcement

01/20/2020

**TRENTON** - Governor Phil Murphy today signed a legislative package into law to create and establish protections for law enforcement. The series of bills provide resources and safeguards for New Jersey's police officers.

"New Jersey's law enforcement officers are the finest in the nation and we will take every step necessary to ensure their safety both in the line of duty and off-duty," **said Governor Murphy**. "I am proud to sign legislation that will support the officers who dedicate every day to us."

"Each and every day our law enforcement officers risk their personal safety and well-being to serve our communities. We owe it to our officers to protect them not only from the dangers they face on the job, but also from the effects of daily trauma," **said Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal**. "Last year, the Governor and I addressed the largest gathering of law enforcement officers ever assembled in New Jersey at our statewide Resiliency Summit, which laid the foundation for this groundbreaking work. Today, we join our law enforcement community as we mourn the loss of Patrolman Edward Nortrup of the Roselle Park Police Department."

"Among the threats that a law enforcement officer may confront, perhaps no two things are more preventable than officers being unintentionally struck by motorists and officer suicide," **said Colonel Patrick Callahan of the New Jersey State Police**. "This legislation will help raise public awareness about the importance of the 'Move Over Law' and will create essential training for law enforcement so that officers know how to get the help and support they need, but most importantly, it will help save lives."

- **A1028 (Johnson Pinkin, Lampitt/Weinberg, Oroho)** - Establishes training program to prevent suicide by law enforcement officer; requires reporting of law enforcement officer suicides to Attorney General.
- **A2604 (DeAngelo, Thomson, Mukherji/Cryan, Greenstein)** - Establishes "Blue Alert System."
- **A3890 (Houghtaling, Downey/Gopal, Singleton)** - Imposes motor vehicle penalty points for certain violations of "move over law"; establishes public awareness campaign; designated as "Slow Down or Move Over, It's the Law Act."

"Today's bill signings reflect on our obligation as a State to look after the safety and the physical and mental health of New Jersey's law enforcement officers," **said Patrick Colligan, President of the New Jersey State Police Benevolent Association (NJSPBA)**. "There are risks that are ever present in law enforcement and we can never foresee the day when an officer will face them. These bills will make a difference. The New Jersey State PBA is grateful to the Governor and the bill sponsors for making them a priority."

"I am pleased that the Governor is supporting law enforcement by signing these 3 important FOP priority bills into law," **said Robert W. Fox, President of the New Jersey Fraternal Order of Police**. "The signing of these bills will help improve the safety of the law enforcement community in this State."

## **A1028**

"For the third straight year in 2018, officer deaths by suicide outnumbered those who died in the line of duty in our country," **said Assemblyman Johnson**. "An estimated 159 officers took their own lives last year, compared to the 145 who died in the line of duty. Those numbers are staggering and heartbreaking. We must do all we can to prevent these tragedies, beginning with ensuring the right people are trained to address troubling situations."

"An entire community grieves the loss of an officer. When that loss may have been preventable, it's all the more tragic," **said Assemblywoman Pinkin**. "Our brave officers and their families deserve our utmost respect and support, particularly if they are going through difficult times. With the program created under this law, we can hopefully get these officers the help they need and potentially save lives."

"Sadly, New Jersey has one of the highest rates of officer suicide in the nation; our state lost eight officers to suicide last year," **said Assemblywoman Lampitt**. "But we cannot forget that suicide is preventable. The first step towards combating this crisis is to develop a comprehensive training program for our law enforcement agencies, and ensure they have the resources they need to identify and respond when someone needs help."

“Sadly, the greatest threat facing our police force today is suicide. It is so prevalent in the profession that the number of police officers who died by suicide is more than triple that of officers who were fatally injured in the line of duty,” **said Senator Weinberg**. “This law will ensure we are addressing the mental health struggles of our law enforcement and connecting them with the help that they need.”

“New Jersey’s brave law enforcement community repeatedly rushes towards danger as others flee,” **said Senator Oroho**. “Continuously being exposed to stressful situations takes a mental toll, which can sometimes seem too great to bear. Empowering our police officers and corrections officers with resiliency tools and training will help our local heroes when they need it most.”

#### **A2604**

“Law enforcement officers take on the dangerous task of protecting communities across New Jersey. When they’re attacked or go missing, every resident of this state with any relevant information has a duty to come forward,” **said Assemblyman DeAngelo**. “Blue Alerts can provide a means of making sure that those who harm men and women in uniform are found and penalized accordingly.”

“Police work is inherently dangerous. Given the safety risks faced by law enforcement officers, it is only right that we create a system that would allow for more efficient communication to help ensure that an individual who attacks an officer is caught swiftly and brought to justice,” **said Assemblyman Mukherji**. “This not only ensures that justice is served for these officers, but helps protect the public by getting a dangerous individual off the streets as quickly as possible.”

“It is a priority to protect the people who protect us,” **said Assemblyman Thomson**. “The men and women in blue who literally put their lives on the line need to know that if they are harmed, we will do everything in our power to capture the criminals and bring them to justice.”

“Law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day in service to the communities they serve and the people they protect,” **said Senator Cryan, vice chair of the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee and the former Union County Sherriff**. “If they are threatened, injured or go missing this will provide a ‘Blue Alert’ that enables others to act quickly. It could mean the difference between life and death in dangerous situations. The alert system will be modelled after the Amber and Silver Alert programs already in place in New Jersey to protect children and senior citizens.”

#### **A3890**

“Violators of the Move Over Law’ are putting officers at serious risk of injury or death, and they must understand that the severity of their actions,” **said Assemblyman Houghtaling**. “This law shows how seriously we take the safety of our state’s brave police officers.”

“We want to do everything we can to protect our state’s law enforcement officers,” **said Assemblywoman Downey**. “By penalizing individuals who violate the state’s ‘Move Over Law’ with points, they will understand that this is not an issue we in New Jersey take lightly.”

“Slowing down or moving over allows our public safety officers and highway management crews to do their jobs safely, especially here in New Jersey, which is the most densely populated state in the nation,” **said Senator Singleton**. “I am pleased that New Jersey finally has a law that extends these highway safety protections to these workers.”