

**2C:14-2.1**  
**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**

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**LAWS OF:** 2021                      **CHAPTER:** 61

**NJSA:** 2C:14-2.1 (Requires law enforcement provide victim of sexual assault with initial incident report; provides victim with option to review initial incident report and submit corrective form.)

**BILL NO:** S3071                      (Substituted for A4885)

**SPONSOR(S)** Weinberg, Loretta and others

**DATE INTRODUCED:** 10/22/2020

**COMMITTEE:**                      **ASSEMBLY:** Women & Children

**SENATE:** Law & Public Safety

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** Yes

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**                      **ASSEMBLY:** 3/1/2021

**SENATE:** 12/17/2020

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** 4/19/2021

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL (First Reprint enacted)** Yes

**S3071**

**INTRODUCED BILL (INCLUDES SPONSOR'S STATEMENT):** Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**                      **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

**SENATE:** Yes

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

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**A4885**

**INTRODUCED BILL (INCLUDES SPONSOR'S STATEMENT):** Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**                      **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

**SENATE:** No

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

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

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

Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:**

No

**HEARINGS:**

No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:**

Yes

'7 new laws boost protection for sexual assault victims in NJ', Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey (online), 19 Apr 2021

RH/CL

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 61, *approved April 19, 2021*  
Senate, No. 3071 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the protocols for sexual assault cases and  
2 amending P.L.2003, c.137.

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

6  
7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2003, c.137 (C.2C:14-2.1) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the  
10 contrary, any victim reporting a violation of N.J.S.2C:14-2 shall be  
11 provided with the option to review the <sup>1</sup>**【police report】** initial  
12 incident report<sup>1</sup> concerning that violation prior to filing by the law  
13 enforcement agency. In addition, the law enforcement agency shall  
14 provide the victim with a standardized form prescribed by the  
15 Attorney General wherein the victim may state whether the victim  
16 disagrees with information contained in the <sup>1</sup>**【police report】** initial  
17 incident report<sup>1</sup> . <sup>1</sup>The law enforcement agency shall provide to the  
18 victim contact information for a liaison to victims of sexual assault,  
19 as set forth in subsection b. of this section, for assistance in  
20 completing the standardized form.<sup>1</sup> The law enforcement agency  
21 shall review the standardized form prior to finalizing and filing the  
22 <sup>1</sup>**【police report】** initial incident report<sup>1</sup>. The victim's decision to  
23 not submit a standardized form shall not be construed as indicating  
24 the victim's approval regarding the contents of the <sup>1</sup>**【police report】**  
25 initial incident report<sup>1</sup>. <sup>1</sup>At the time of the initial report, the law  
26 enforcement agency shall inform the victim that the victim is  
27 entitled to a copy of the initial incident report once the initial  
28 incident report has been finalized or that the victim may waive the  
29 right to receive a copy of the initial incident report. The law  
30 enforcement agency shall provide the victim with contact  
31 information so that the victim may inquire about the status of the  
32 initial incident report, prior to the law enforcement agency  
33 finalizing the report. The law enforcement agency shall provide the  
34 victim with instructions regarding the precise date, time, and  
35 location where the victim may obtain a copy of the finalized initial  
36 incident report from the law enforcement agency or provide the  
37 victim with the option to receive the initial incident report by mail.<sup>1</sup>  
38 The victim shall be provided, at no cost, with a copy of the <sup>1</sup>**【police**  
39 report<sup>1</sup>】 initial incident report<sup>1</sup> and any form submitted by the  
40 victim.

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>Senate SLP committee amendments adopted December 10, 2020.

1     At any time, a victim may exercise the option to submit a  
2 standardized form correcting information contained within the  
3 '[police report] initial incident report, at which time the law  
4 enforcement agency also shall provide the victim with a copy of the  
5 standardized form submitted by the victim at no cost. The  
6 standardized form correcting information contained within the  
7 initial incident report shall not be a governmental record under  
8 P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.), known commonly as the open  
9 public records act<sup>1</sup>.

10     The law enforcement agency shall establish that it has complied  
11 with the provisions of this subsection by obtaining a signature from  
12 the victim. A violation of this subsection may be reported to the  
13 Office of the Attorney General.

14     The '[police report] initial incident report'<sup>1</sup> and form shall be  
15 permanently retained by the law enforcement agency.

16     b. Each county prosecutor's office shall appoint a staff  
17 member who will serve as a liaison to victims of sexual assault.  
18 The liaison shall have expertise in the rights of sexual assault  
19 victims and in the handling of sexual assault cases. The liaison  
20 shall provide assistance, support, and guidance to victims of sexual  
21 assault including, but not limited to, completing the standardized  
22 form contesting the information contained in the initial incident  
23 report.

24     c.<sup>1</sup> Whenever there is a prosecution for a violation of  
25 [N.J.S.A.2C:14-2] N.J.S.2C:14-2, the victim of the sexual assault  
26 shall be provided an opportunity to consult with the prosecuting  
27 authority prior to the conclusion of any plea negotiations.

28     Nothing contained herein shall be construed to alter or limit the  
29 authority or discretion of the prosecutor to enter into any plea  
30 agreement which the prosecutor deems appropriate.

31     'd. For purposes of this section "initial incident report" shall  
32 mean the initial victim statement provided by the victim to the law  
33 enforcement agency and shall not include any criminal investigatory  
34 records or other information deemed confidential pursuant to  
35 P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.).<sup>1</sup>

36  
37     2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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42     Requires law enforcement provide victim of sexual assault with  
43 initial incident report; provides victim with option to review initial  
44 incident report and submit corrective form.

# SENATE, No. 3071

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LORETTA WEINBERG**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Pou and Gill**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires law enforcement provide victim of sexual assault with police report; provides victim with option to review police report and submit corrective form.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/10/2020)**

1 AN ACT concerning the protocols for sexual assault cases and  
2 amending P.L.2003, c.137.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2003, c.137 (C.2C:14-2.1) is amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary,  
10 any victim reporting a violation of N.J.S.2C:14-2 shall be provided  
11 with the option to review the police report concerning that violation  
12 prior to filing by the law enforcement agency. In addition, the law  
13 enforcement agency shall provide the victim with a standardized form  
14 prescribed by the Attorney General wherein the victim may state  
15 whether the victim disagrees with information contained in the police  
16 report. The law enforcement agency shall review the standardized  
17 form prior to finalizing and filing the police report. The victim's  
18 decision to not submit a standardized form shall not be construed as  
19 indicating the victim's approval regarding the contents of the police  
20 report. The victim shall be provided, at no cost, with a copy of the  
21 police report and any form submitted by the victim.

22 At any time, a victim may exercise the option to submit a  
23 standardized form correcting information contained within the police  
24 report.

25 The law enforcement agency shall establish that it has complied  
26 with the provisions of this subsection by obtaining a signature from the  
27 victim. A violation of this subsection may be reported to the Office of  
28 the Attorney General.

29 The police report and form shall be permanently retained by the law  
30 enforcement agency.

31 b. Whenever there is a prosecution for a violation of  
32 **[N.J.S.A.2C:14-2]** N.J.S.2C:14-2, the victim of the sexual assault  
33 shall be provided an opportunity to consult with the prosecuting  
34 authority prior to the conclusion of any plea negotiations.

35 Nothing contained herein shall be construed to alter or limit the  
36 authority or discretion of the prosecutor to enter into any plea  
37 agreement which the prosecutor deems appropriate.

38 (cf: P.L.2003, c.137, s.1)

39

40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

41

42

43 STATEMENT

44

45 This bill provides that a sexual assault victim is to be given the

**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.

**S3071 WEINBERG, RUIZ**

1 option to review a police report prior to filing by the law enforcement  
2 agency. In addition, the law enforcement agency is required to  
3 provide the victim with a standardized form, prescribed by the  
4 Attorney General, wherein the victim may state whether the victim  
5 disagrees with information contained in the police report. The law  
6 enforcement agency is required to review the standardized form prior  
7 to finalizing and filing the police report.

8 Under the bill, any decision by the victim to not submit a  
9 standardized form is not to be construed as indicating the victim's  
10 approval regarding the contents of the police report.

11 The bill provides that a victim may exercise the option to submit a  
12 standardized form correcting information contained within the police  
13 report at any time and that the victim is to be provided, at no cost, a  
14 copy of the police report and any form submitted by the victim.

15 The bill requires a law enforcement agency to permanently retain  
16 the police report and form.

17 Finally, the bill provides that the law enforcement agency is to  
18 establish that it has complied with the provisions of this bill by  
19 obtaining the victim's signature and that any violation of the bill's  
20 provisions may be reported to the Office of the Attorney General.

# ASSEMBLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 3071**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2021

The Assembly Women and Children Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3071 (1R).

This bill provides that a sexual assault victim is to be given the option to review an initial incident report prior to filing by the law enforcement agency. The law enforcement agency is additionally required to provide the victim with a standardized form, prescribed by the Attorney General, wherein the victim may state whether the victim disagrees with information contained in the initial incident report. The law enforcement agency is required to review the standardized form prior to finalizing and filing the initial incident report.

Under the bill, any decision by the victim to not submit a standardized form is not to be construed as indicating the victim's approval regarding the contents of the initial incident report.

The bill provides that at the time of the initial report, the law enforcement agency is to inform the victim that the victim is entitled to a copy of the initial incident report once the initial incident report has been finalized or that the victim may waive the right to receive a copy of the initial incident report. The law enforcement agency is to provide the victim with contact information so that the victim may inquire about the status of the initial report, prior to the law enforcement agency finalizing the report. Under the bill, the law enforcement agency is to provide the victim with instructions regarding the precise date, time, and location where the victim may obtain a copy of the finalized initial incident report from the law enforcement agency or provide the victim with the option to receive the initial incident report by mail.

The bill provides that a victim may exercise the option to submit a standardized form correcting information contained within the initial incident report at any time and that the victim is to be provided, at no cost, a copy of the initial incident report and any form submitted by the victim. The bill also provides that the standardized form correcting information contained within the initial incident report is not a governmental record under the Open Public Records Act.

The bill requires a law enforcement agency to permanently retain the initial incident report and form.



Under the bill, the law enforcement agency is to establish that it has complied with the provisions of this bill by obtaining the victim's signature and that any violation of the bill's provisions may be reported to the Office of the Attorney General.

The bill defines "initial incident report" to mean the initial victim statement provided by the victim to the law enforcement agency and is not to include any criminal investigatory records or other information deemed confidential pursuant to the Open Public Records Act.

Finally, the bill provides that each county prosecutor's office is to appoint a staff member as a liaison to victims of sexual assault and that a law enforcement agency is to put the victim in contact with the liaison for assistance in completing the standardized form.

Senate Bill No. 3071 (1R) was reported with committee amendments by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on December 10, 2020.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3071 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4885 which was reported by the committee on this date.

# SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 3071**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 11, 2020

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3071.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill provides that a sexual assault victim is to be given the option to review an initial incident report prior to filing by a law enforcement agency. In addition, the law enforcement agency is required to provide the victim with a standardized form, prescribed by the Attorney General, wherein the victim may state whether the victim disagrees with information contained in the initial incident report. The law enforcement agency is required to review the standardized form prior to finalizing and filing the initial incident report.

Under the bill, any decision by the victim to not submit a standardized form is not to be construed as indicating the victim's approval regarding the contents of the initial incident report.

The bill provides that at the time of the initial report, the law enforcement agency is to inform the victim that the victim is entitled to a copy of the initial incident report once the initial incident report has been finalized or that the victim may waive the right to receive a copy of the initial incident report. In addition, the law enforcement agency is to provide the victim with contact information so that the victim may inquire about the status of the initial report, prior to the law enforcement agency finalizing the report. Under the bill, the law enforcement agency is to provide the victim with instructions regarding the precise date, time, and location where the victim may obtain a copy of the finalized initial incident report from the law enforcement agency or provide the victim with the option to receive the initial incident report by mail.

The bill provides that a victim may exercise the option to submit a standardized form correcting information contained within the initial incident report at any time and that the victim is to be provided, at no cost, a copy of the initial incident report and any form submitted by the victim. The bill also provides that the standardized form correcting information contained within the initial incident report is not a governmental record under the open public records act.

The bill requires a law enforcement agency to permanently retain the initial incident report and form.

Under the bill, the law enforcement agency is to establish that it has complied with the provisions of this bill by obtaining the victim's signature. The bill provides that any violation of the bill's provisions may be reported to the Office of the Attorney General.

The bill defines "initial incident report" to mean the initial victim statement provided by the victim to the law enforcement agency and is not to include any criminal investigatory records or other information deemed confidential pursuant to the Open Public Records Act.

Finally, the bill provides that each county prosecutor's office is to appoint a staff member as a liaison to victims of sexual assault to provide assistance, support, and guidance to victims of sexual assault and that a law enforcement agency is to put the victim in contact with the liaison for assistance in completing the standardized form.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

1) clarify that a law enforcement agency is to provide the victim a copy of the initial incident report;

2) clarify that a law enforcement agency is to provide the victim with a copy of the corrective form at no cost, any time the victim exercises the option to submit a standardized form correcting information contained in the initial incident report;

3) define "initial incident report" to mean the initial victim statement provided by the victim to the law enforcement agency and is not to include any criminal investigatory records or other information deemed confidential pursuant to the open public records act;

4) provide that the standardized form correcting information contained within the initial incident report is not a governmental record under the open public records act;

5) provide that each county prosecutors' office is to appoint a staff member as a liaison to victims of sexual assault to provide assistance, support, and guidance;

6) provide that at the time of the initial report, the law enforcement agency is to inform the victim that he or she is entitled to a copy of the initial incident report once the initial incident report has been finalized or that the victim may waive the right to receive a copy of the initial incident report;

7) provide the victim with contact information so that the victim may inquire about the status of the initial report, prior to the law enforcement agency finalizing the report;

8) provide the victim with instructions regarding the precise date, time, and location where the victim may obtain a copy of the finalized

initial incident report from the law enforcement agency or provide the victim with the option to receive the initial incident report by mail; and

9) provide that the law enforcement agency is to put the victim in contact with the liaison to victims of sexual assault for assistance in completing the standardized form.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4885

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 26, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

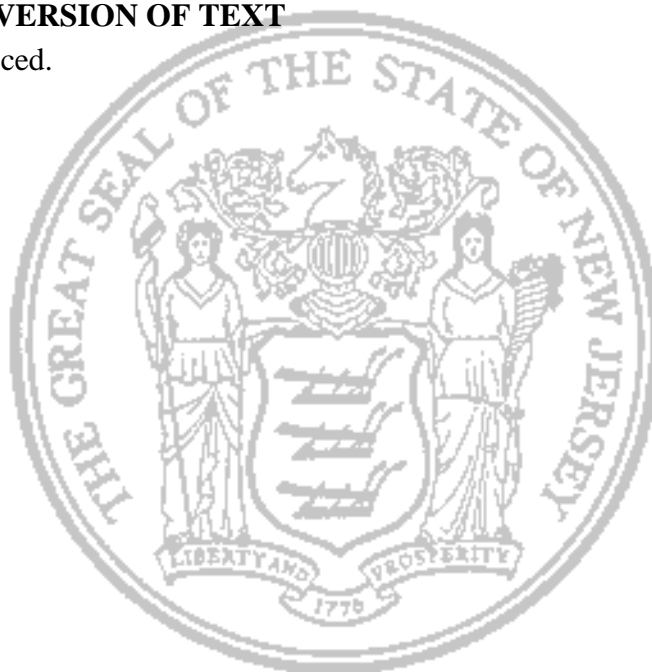
**Assemblymen Zwicker, Verrelli and Johnson**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires law enforcement provide victim of sexual assault with police report; provides victim with option to review police report and submit corrective form.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/16/2020)**

1 AN ACT concerning the protocols for sexual assault cases and  
2 amending P.L.2003, c.137.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2003, c.137 (C.2C:14-2.1) is amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary,  
10 any victim reporting a violation of N.J.S.2C:14-2 shall be provided  
11 with the option to review the police report concerning that violation  
12 prior to filing by the law enforcement agency. In addition, the law  
13 enforcement agency shall provide the victim with a standardized form  
14 prescribed by the Attorney General wherein the victim may state  
15 whether the victim disagrees with information contained in the police  
16 report. The law enforcement agency shall review the standardized  
17 form prior to finalizing and filing the police report. The victim's  
18 decision to not submit a standardized form shall not be construed as  
19 indicating the victim's approval regarding the contents of the police  
20 report. The victim shall be provided, at no cost, with a copy of the  
21 police report and any form submitted by the victim.

22 At any time, a victim may exercise the option to submit a  
23 standardized form correcting information contained within the police  
24 report.

25 The law enforcement agency shall establish that it has complied  
26 with the provisions of this subsection by obtaining a signature from the  
27 victim. A violation of this subsection may be reported to the Office of  
28 the Attorney General.

29 The police report and form shall be permanently retained by the law  
30 enforcement agency.

31 b. Whenever there is a prosecution for a violation of  
32 **[N.J.S.A.2C:14-2]** N.J.S.2C:14-2, the victim of the sexual assault  
33 shall be provided an opportunity to consult with the prosecuting  
34 authority prior to the conclusion of any plea negotiations.

35 Nothing contained herein shall be construed to alter or limit the  
36 authority or discretion of the prosecutor to enter into any plea  
37 agreement which the prosecutor deems appropriate.

38 (cf: P.L.2003, c.137, s.1)

39

40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

41

42

43

#### STATEMENT

44

45 This bill provides that a sexual assault victim is to be given the

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 option to review a police report prior to filing by the law enforcement  
2 agency. In addition, the law enforcement agency is required to  
3 provide the victim with a standardized form, prescribed by the  
4 Attorney General, wherein the victim may state whether the victim  
5 disagrees with information contained in the police report. The law  
6 enforcement agency is required to review the standardized form prior  
7 to finalizing and filing the police report.

8 Under the bill, any decision by the victim to not submit a  
9 standardized form is not to be construed as indicating the victim's  
10 approval regarding the contents of the police report.

11 The bill provides that a victim may exercise the option to submit a  
12 standardized form correcting information contained within the police  
13 report at any time and that the victim is to be provided, at no cost, a  
14 copy of the police report and any form submitted by the victim.

15 The bill requires a law enforcement agency to permanently retain  
16 the police report and form.

17 Finally, the bill provides that the law enforcement agency is to  
18 establish that it has complied with the provisions of this bill by  
19 obtaining the victim's signature and that any violation of the bill's  
20 provisions may be reported to the Office of the Attorney General.

# ASSEMBLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 4885**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2021

The Assembly Women and Children Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4885.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill provides that a sexual assault victim is to be given the option to review an initial incident report prior to filing by the law enforcement agency. In addition, the law enforcement agency is required to provide the victim with a standardized form, prescribed by the Attorney General, wherein the victim may state whether the victim disagrees with information contained in the initial incident report. The law enforcement agency is required to review the standardized form prior to finalizing and filing the initial incident report.

Under the bill, any decision by the victim to not submit a standardized form is not to be construed as indicating the victim's approval regarding the contents of the initial incident report.

The bill provides that at the time of the initial report, the law enforcement agency is to inform the victim that the victim is entitled to a copy of the initial incident report once the initial incident report has been finalized or that the victim may waive the right to receive a copy of the initial incident report. In addition, the law enforcement agency is to provide the victim with contact information so that the victim may inquire about the status of the initial report, prior to the law enforcement agency finalizing the report. Under the bill, the law enforcement agency is to provide the victim with instructions regarding the precise date, time, and location where the victim may obtain a copy of the finalized initial incident report from the law enforcement agency or provide the victim with the option to receive the initial incident report by mail.

The bill provides that a victim may exercise the option to submit a standardized form correcting information contained within the initial incident report at any time and that the victim is to be provided, at no cost, a copy of the initial incident report and any form submitted by the victim. The bill also provides that the standardized form correcting information contained within the initial incident report is not a governmental record under the Open Public Records Act.

The bill requires a law enforcement agency to permanently retain the initial incident report and form.



Under the bill, the law enforcement agency is to establish that it has complied with the provisions of this bill by obtaining the victim's signature and that any violation of the bill's provisions may be reported to the Office of the Attorney General.

The bill defines "initial incident report" to mean the initial victim statement provided by the victim to the law enforcement agency and is not to include any criminal investigatory records or other information deemed confidential pursuant to the Open Public Records Act.

Finally, the bill provides that each county prosecutor's office is to appoint a staff member as a liaison to victims of sexual assault and that a law enforcement agency is to put the victim in contact with the liaison for assistance in completing the standardized form.

As amended by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 4885 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3071 (1R), sponsored by Senators Weinberg and Ruiz, which was reported by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on December 10, 2020.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

1) clarify that a law enforcement agency is to provide the victim a copy of the initial incident report;

2) clarify that a law enforcement agency is to provide the victim with a copy of the corrective form at no cost, any time the victim exercises the option to submit a standardized form correcting information contained in the initial incident report;

3) define "initial incident report" to mean the initial victim statement provided by the victim to the law enforcement agency and is not to include any criminal investigatory records or other information deemed confidential pursuant to the Open Public Records Act;

4) provide that the standardized form correcting information contained within the initial incident report is not a governmental record under the Open Public Records Act;

5) provide that each county prosecutor's office is to appoint a staff member as a liaison to victims of sexual assault to provide assistance, support, and guidance;

6) provide that at the time of the initial report, the law enforcement agency is to inform the victim that he or she is entitled to a copy of the initial incident report once the initial incident report has been finalized or that the victim may waive the right to receive a copy of the initial incident report;

7) provide the victim with contact information so that the victim may inquire about the status of the initial report, prior to the law enforcement agency finalizing the report;

8) provide the victim with instructions regarding the precise date, time, and location where the victim may obtain a copy of the finalized initial incident report from the law enforcement agency or provide the victim with the option to receive the initial incident report by mail; and

9) provide that the law enforcement agency is to put the victim in contact with the liaison to victims of sexual assault for assistance in completing the standardized form.

The committee also amended the synopsis to reflect the use of the term “initial incident report” in place of the term “police report.”

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 4885 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3071 (1R) which was also reported by the committee on this date.

# Governor Murphy Signs Bills Strengthening How Law Enforcement Agencies in New Jersey Manage Sexual Assault Cases

04/19/2021

**TRENTON** – Governor Phil Murphy today signed a series of bills strengthening how law enforcement agencies handle sexual assault cases. These bills direct law enforcement agencies to allocate additional resources to sexual assault cases, increase training for prosecutors on how to manage these cases, and change reporting structures to ensure that survivors are properly notified about their cases. As part of this package of bills, Attorney General Gurbir Grewal will also be tasked with publishing an annual report detailing the scope of sexual assault incidents statewide.

"It is imperative that we take steps to make sure that survivors in New Jersey know they can seek justice," **said Governor Murphy**. "Giving our law enforcement agencies clear directives and guidance on how to manage sexual assault cases will ensure that these cases are handled with survivors in mind. These long-overdue reforms will change how survivors interact with law enforcement agencies and provide additional information on the scope of these incidents. I am proud to sign these bills into law."

Previously, Governor Murphy signed the Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights, legislation to protect survivors, and legislation to create a new commission on campus sexual assault. Attorney General Grewal also issued a directive to law enforcement in 2018 that created fourteen protocols prioritizing the needs and concerns of sexual assault victims in New Jersey and ensuring that victims are treated with respect and understanding by law enforcement in the days, weeks, and months after reporting an assault. Many of today's actions codify and expand on that 2018 directive.

Governor Murphy today signed the following legislation:

- **S3070/A4884** (Weinberg, Turner/Vainieri Huttle, McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson) Establishes "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program."
- **S3071/4885** (Weinberg, Ruiz/Vainieri Huttle, Lopez, Reynolds-Jackson) Requires law enforcement provide victim of sexual assault with initial incident report; provides victim with option to review initial incident report and submit corrective form.
- **S3072/A4886** – (Weinberg, Cunningham/Vainieri Huttle, Murphy, Reynolds-Jackson) Requires resources be made available to victims of sexual assault.
- **S3073/A4887** – (Weinberg, Corrado/Vainieri Huttle, Jasey, Timberlake) Establishes right of victims to be notified of county prosecutor's charging decision in sexual assault cases.
- **S3074/A4888** – (Weinberg, Greenstein/Vainieri Huttle, Lopez) Requires the Office of the Attorney General to issue an annual report concerning sexual assault cases.
- **S3075/A4889** – (Weinberg, Pou/Vainieri Huttle, Quijano, Speight) Establishes sexual violence liaison officer in Division of State Police and local police departments.
- **S3076/A4890** – (Weinberg, Gill/Vainieri Huttle, McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson) Requires sexual assault training for prosecutors.

"This legislation codifies and in some instances expands upon the important steps our office has taken in the last several years to improve the way law enforcement officers and prosecutors engage with victims of sexual assault, with the goal of ensuring that survivors' cases are handled in accordance with best practices by police and prosecutors," **said Attorney General Grewal**. "With the signing of these bills into

law, New Jersey stands as a model for improving survivor-focused case management and law enforcement training and reporting, so we can achieve justice while treating survivors of sex crimes with the respect and compassion they deserve."

"Today, New Jersey adds to its portfolio of survivor-centered, trauma-informed laws and transforms how our state responds to the needs of survivors of sexual violence," **said Patricia Teffenhart, Executive Director of the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA)**. "The signing of today's package of bills is a direct reflection of what kind of change is possible when we collectively center the lived experiences of survivors to inform necessary policy and practice reforms. NJCASA is thankful for the survivors, advocates, bill sponsors, and Governor Murphy who made this possible."

ent Demonstration Program."

[Copy of Statement](#)

April 19, 2021

**SENATE BILL NO.2725**  
**(First Reprint)**

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2725 (First Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill would make various changes to the assessment and appeals process in 1) counties operating under the Real Property Assessment Demonstration Program ("Demonstration Program"), currently, only Monmouth County; 2) counties operating under the Property Tax Assessment Reform Act ("Reform Act"), limited in statute to Gloucester County; and 3) counties that have adopted the alternative real property assessment calendar establishment pursuant to the Demonstration Program, currently, only Burlington County.

Among other changes, the bill would amend P.L.2017, c.306 to add a definition of what constitutes a "good-faith attempt to physically inspect" the interior of properties located in counties participating in the Demonstration Program and the Reform Act and add any county who has adopted the alternative assessment calendar to the list of counties subject to the requirements of the law. Under the bill, a county participating in a Demonstration Program would be permitted to conduct an interior inspection virtually, using smartphone technology and protocols adopted by the county board of taxation, at the discretion of the taxpayer. This virtual inspection option would be available for all assessment-related functions conducted in a Demonstration Program county.

With respect to appeals of property tax assessments, the bill provides that taxpayers in a Demonstration Program county are not entitled to appeal an assessment if the taxpayer has refused an assessor's request to internally inspect the property. In addition, the bill specifies that the so-called "Chapter 123 ratio"

shall not apply to taxpayer appeals in a Demonstration Program county in any tax year in which a municipal-wide reassessment or other form of district-wide assessment review occurs. The Chapter 123 ratio eliminates the burden of demonstrating that property was assessed at greater than true value and of proving the common level of assessment for all properties in the municipality.

I applaud the bill's sponsors for attempting to further clarify and streamline the tax assessment functions in those counties that have chosen to participate in the Demonstration Program or the Reform Act. These laws were enacted with the intent of modeling more cost-effective and accurate real property assessment administration. As participating counties' experiences reveal additional opportunities for streamlining and standardizing the assessment function, it is important that statutes keep pace.

While I support the reform measures contemplated in this bill, I am concerned that the bill may inappropriately single out participating counties in a manner that could create unconstitutional disparities among taxpayers based on where they live. The uniformity clause of the New Jersey Constitution requires all property to be assessed for taxation under "general laws," by "uniform rules" and "according to the same standard of value." N.J. Const. Art. 8, Sec. 1, par. 1. By mandating the automatic dismissal of an appeal whenever a taxpayer refuses a virtual inspection only in the case of those taxpayers located in a Demonstration Program county, the bill denies these taxpayers a right to relief that is available to other taxpayers. The same is true for the bill's provision narrowing applicability of the Chapter 123 ratio to exclude certain appeals in a Demonstration Program county, while leaving it in place for appeals taking place in other counties under identical circumstances.

To avoid this outcome, I am recommending revisions to apply the important reform measures proposed in the bill to all counties, or, where appropriate, to all municipalities implementing annual reassessments or compliance plans. This will ensure that the rules are uniform throughout the State while also enabling all counties and taxpayers to benefit from the bill's efficiencies.

Accordingly, I herewith return Senate Bill No. 2725 (First Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

<u>Page 2, Title, Lines 1-2:</u>	Delete "in certain counties"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 20:</u>	Delete "eighth"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 22:</u>	Delete "eight-year"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 38:</u>	Delete "However,"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Lines 39-43:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 3, Section 1, Lines 1-9:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 3, Section 1, Line 10:</u>	Delete "In the case of a municipality located in a county wherein the" and insert "Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, in any municipality implementing a revaluation program approved by the Director of the Division of Taxation pursuant to P.L.1971, c.424 (C. 54:1-35.35 et seq.), district-wide reassessment program, compliance plan, or other form of municipal-wide assessment review that requires the revision of all property assessments to current market value, that is approved by the county board of taxation"
<u>Page 3, Section 1, Lines 11-12:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 3, Section 1, Line 13:</u>	Delete "Demonstration Program," P.L.2013, c.15 (C.54:1-104),"
<u>Page 6, Section 3, Line 26:</u>	After "seq.)" insert ", district-wide reassessment program, compliance plan, or other form of municipal-wide assessment review that requires the revision of all

property assessments to current market value, that is approved by the county board of taxation pursuant to R.S.54:4-23"

Page 6, Section 3, Lines 27-39: Delete in their entirety

Page 6, Section 3, Line 40: Delete "Demonstration Program," P.L.2013, c.15 (C.54:1-104), at" and insert "g. At"

Page 7, Section 3, Lines 3-5: Delete in their entirety

Page 7, Section 3, Line 6: Delete "Demonstration Program," P.L.2013, c.15 (C.54:1-104), at" and insert "h. At"

Page 7, Section 3, Lines 9-10: Delete "the county's online appeal system, and"

Page 7, Section 3, Line 11: After "taxation." insert "The county board of taxation may relax the requirement of the time of the taxpayer's appeal as the needs of justice allow."

Page 7, Section 4, Line 36: Delete "or a" and insert "district-wide reassessment program, compliance plan, or other form of municipal-wide assessment review that requires the revision of all property assessments to current market value, that is approved by the county board of taxation pursuant to R.S.54:4-23."

Page 7, Section 4, Lines 37-47: Delete in their entirety

[seal]

Respectfully,  
/s/ Philip D. Murphy  
Governor

Attest:  
/s/ Parimal Garg  
Chief Counsel to the Governor