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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

§1 –  
C.52:17B-9.20  
§2 –  
C.40A:14-118.6  
§3 –  
C.40A:14-106.4  
§4 - Note

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 65, *approved April 19, 2021*  
Senate, No. 3075 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** establishing sexual violence liaison officers in certain  
2 police departments and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised  
3 Statutes and Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7  
8 1. a. The Superintendent of State Police shall designate the  
9 Station Intervention Officer as the sexual violence liaison officer for  
10 each State Police station.

11 b. The sexual violence liaison officer shall:

12 (1) serve as the station's in-house expert on how to respond to  
13 sexual violence cases;

14 (2) act as the primary point-of-contact for each local sexual  
15 violence program and county Sexual Assault Response Team <sup>1</sup>**[as]**<sup>1</sup>  
16 established pursuant section 6 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-54) to  
17 coordinate an effective community response;

18 (3) when appropriately trained, provide in-house training on sexual  
19 violence and support training implementation by the Victim Services  
20 Unit;

21 (4) monitor the station's compliance with sexual violence best  
22 practices as set forth in the statutory law and Attorney General  
23 policies; and

24 (5) serve in any other capacity deemed appropriate by the  
25 superintendent.

26 c. A sexual violence liaison officer shall complete specialized  
27 sexual violence training as specified by the superintendent.

28 d. A regional investigator of the Victim Services Unit of the  
29 Division of State Police shall:

30 (1) be a member of the Victim Services Unit, or its successor;

31 (2) complete specialized sexual violence training as specified by  
32 the superintendent; and

33 (3) represent the station at county meetings of the Sexual Assault  
34 Response Team.

**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 e. A member of the Division of State Police shall be disqualified  
2 from serving as a sexual violence liaison officer or regional  
3 investigator of the Victim Services Unit if:

4 (1) the member <sup>1</sup>**【has been】** is<sup>1</sup> the subject of an investigation  
5 <sup>1</sup>for a complaint charging a violation of the internal rules and  
6 regulations established for the conduct of the division<sup>1</sup> regarding  
7 sexual violence, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, stalking, or  
8 sexual harassment <sup>1</sup>or there are pending criminal charges against the  
9 member for any of these offenses<sup>1</sup>; or

10 (2) a court has issued a protective or restraining order against the  
11 member.

12 f. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the sexual <sup>1</sup>**【assault】**  
13 violence<sup>1</sup> liaison officer from simultaneously serving as a domestic  
14 violence liaison officer or Megan's Law resource officer.  
15

16 2. a. The chief of police or other executive head of a municipal  
17 police department and force established pursuant to the provisions of  
18 N.J.S.40A:14-118 shall appoint a full-time sworn officer of the  
19 department and force to serve as a sexual violence liaison officer.

20 b. The sexual violence liaison officer shall:

21 (1) serve as the department and force in-house expert on how to  
22 respond to sexual violence cases;

23 (2) act as the primary point-of-contact for each local sexual  
24 violence program and county Sexual Assault Response Team <sup>1</sup>**【as】**<sup>1</sup>  
25 established pursuant section 6 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-54) to  
26 coordinate an effective community response;

27 (3) represent the department and force at county meetings of the  
28 Sexual Assault Response Team;

29 (4) when appropriately trained, provide in-house training on sexual  
30 violence;

31 (5) monitor the department and force's compliance with sexual  
32 violence best practices as set forth in the statutory law and Attorney  
33 General policies; and

34 (6) serve in any other capacity deemed appropriate by the chief of  
35 police or other executive head of the department or force.

36 c. A sexual violence liaison officer shall complete specialized  
37 sexual violence training as specified by the chief of police or other  
38 executive head of the municipal police department and force.

39 d. An officer of the department or force shall be disqualified from  
40 serving as a sexual violence liaison officer if:

41 (1) the officer <sup>1</sup>**【has been】** is<sup>1</sup> the subject of an investigation <sup>1</sup>for a  
42 complaint charging a violation of the internal rules and regulations  
43 established for the conduct of the department and force<sup>1</sup> regarding  
44 sexual violence, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, stalking, or  
45 sexual harassment <sup>1</sup>or there are pending criminal charges against the  
46 officer for any of these offenses<sup>1</sup>; or

1 (2) a court has issued a protective or restraining order against the  
2 officer.

3 e. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the sexual <sup>1</sup>**[assault]**  
4 violence<sup>1</sup> liaison officer from simultaneously serving as a domestic  
5 violence liaison officer or a Megan's Law resource officer.

6 <sup>1</sup>f. Nothing in this section shall preclude a municipal department  
7 and force from:

8 (1) appointing more than one sexual violence liaison officer; or

9 (2) appointing the sexual violence liaison officer of another  
10 municipal or county department and force as the liaison officer for the  
11 department and force provided the liaison officer can adequately  
12 perform the duties <sup>1</sup>required<sup>1</sup> of the officer pursuant to subsection b. of  
13 this section.<sup>1</sup>

14

15 3. a. The chief of police or other executive head of a county  
16 police department and force established pursuant to the provisions of  
17 N.J.S.40A:14-106 through N.J.S.40A:14-117 shall appoint a full-time  
18 sworn officer of the department and force to serve as the sexual  
19 violence liaison officer.

20 b. The sexual violence liaison officer shall:

21 (1) serve as the department and force in-house expert on how to  
22 conduct sexual violence cases;

23 (2) act as the primary point-of-contact for each local sexual  
24 violence program and county Sexual Assault Response Team as  
25 established pursuant section 6 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-54) to  
26 coordinate an effective community response;

27 (3) represent the department and force at county meetings of the  
28 Sexual Assault Response Team;

29 (4) when appropriately trained, provide in-house training on sexual  
30 violence;

31 (5) monitor the department and force's compliance with sexual  
32 violence best practices as set forth in the statutory law and Attorney  
33 General policies; and

34 (6) serve in any other capacity deemed appropriate by the chief of  
35 police or other executive head of the department or force.

36 c. A sexual violence liaison officer shall complete specialized  
37 sexual violence training as specified by the chief of police or other  
38 executive head of the county police department and force.

39 d. An officer of the department or force shall be disqualified from  
40 serving as a sexual violence liaison officer if:

41 (1) the officer <sup>1</sup>**[has been]** is<sup>1</sup> the subject of an investigation <sup>1</sup>for a  
42 complaint charging a violation of the internal rules and regulations  
43 established for the conduct of the department and force<sup>1</sup> regarding  
44 sexual violence, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, stalking, or  
45 sexual harassment <sup>1</sup>or there are pending criminal charges against the  
46 officer for any of these offenses<sup>1</sup>; or

S3075 [1R]

1 (2) a court has issued a protective or restraining order against the  
2 officer.

3 e. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the sexual <sup>1</sup>**[assault]**  
4 violence<sup>1</sup> liaison officer from simultaneously serving as a domestic  
5 violence liaison officer or a Megan's Law resource officer.

6 <sup>1</sup>f. Nothing in this section shall preclude a county department and  
7 force from:

8 (1) appointing more than one sexual violence liaison officer; or

9 (2) appointing the sexual violence liaison officer of another  
10 municipal or county department and force as the liaison officer for the  
11 department and force provided the liaison officer can adequately  
12 perform the duties of the office pursuant to subsection b. of this  
13 section.<sup>1</sup>

14

15 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month  
16 next following enactment.

17

18

19

20

21 Establishes sexual violence liaison officer in Division of State  
22 Police and local police departments.

# SENATE, No. 3075

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LORETTA WEINBERG**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Senator NELLIE POU**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Gill**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes sexual violence liaison officer in Division of State Police and local police departments.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



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

1 AN ACT establishing sexual violence liaison officers in certain  
2 police departments and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised  
3 Statutes and Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7  
8 1. a. The Superintendent of State Police shall designate the  
9 Station Intervention Officer as the sexual violence liaison officer  
10 for each State Police station.

11 b. The sexual violence liaison officer shall:

12 (1) serve as the station's in-house expert on how to respond to  
13 sexual violence cases;

14 (2) act as the primary point-of-contact for each local sexual  
15 violence program and county Sexual Assault Response Team as  
16 established pursuant section 6 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-54) to  
17 coordinate an effective community response;

18 (3) when appropriately trained, provide in-house training on  
19 sexual violence and support training implementation by the Victim  
20 Services Unit;

21 (4) monitor the station's compliance with sexual violence best  
22 practices as set forth in the statutory law and Attorney General  
23 policies; and

24 (5) serve in any other capacity deemed appropriate by the  
25 superintendent.

26 c. A sexual violence liaison officer shall complete specialized  
27 sexual violence training as specified by the superintendent.

28 d. A regional investigator of the Victim Services Unit of the  
29 Division of State Police shall:

30 (1) be a member of the Victim Services Unit, or its successor;

31 (2) complete specialized sexual violence training as specified by  
32 the superintendent; and

33 (3) represent the station at county meetings of the Sexual  
34 Assault Response Team.

35 e. A member of the Division of State Police shall be  
36 disqualified from serving as a sexual violence liaison officer or  
37 regional investigator of the Victim Services Unit if:

38 (1) the member has been the subject of an investigation  
39 regarding sexual violence, sexual misconduct, domestic violence,  
40 stalking, or sexual harassment; or

41 (2) a court has issued a protective or restraining order against  
42 the member.

43 f. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the sexual assault  
44 liaison officer from simultaneously serving as a domestic violence  
45 liaison officer or Megan's Law resource officer.

46  
47 2. a. The chief of police or other executive head of a  
48 municipal police department and force established pursuant to the



1 provisions of N.J.S.40A:14-118 shall appoint a full-time sworn  
2 officer of the department and force to serve as a sexual violence  
3 liaison officer.

4 b. The sexual violence liaison officer shall:

5 (1) serve as the department and force in-house expert on how to  
6 respond to sexual violence cases;

7 (2) act as the primary point-of-contact for each local sexual  
8 violence program and county Sexual Assault Response Team as  
9 established pursuant section 6 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-54) to  
10 coordinate an effective community response;

11 (3) represent the department and force at county meetings of the  
12 Sexual Assault Response Team;

13 (4) when appropriately trained, provide in-house training on  
14 sexual violence;

15 (5) monitor the department and force's compliance with sexual  
16 violence best practices as set forth in the statutory law and Attorney  
17 General policies; and

18 (6) serve in any other capacity deemed appropriate by the chief  
19 of police or other executive head of the department or force.

20 c. A sexual violence liaison officer shall complete specialized  
21 sexual violence training as specified by the chief of police or other  
22 executive head of the municipal police department and force.

23 d. An officer of the department or force shall be disqualified  
24 from serving as a sexual violence liaison officer if:

25 (1) the officer has been the subject of an investigation regarding  
26 sexual violence, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, stalking, or  
27 sexual harassment; or

28 (2) a court has issued a protective or restraining order against  
29 the officer.

30 e. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the sexual assault  
31 liaison officer from simultaneously serving as a domestic violence  
32 liaison officer or a Megan's Law resource officer.

33

34 3. a. The chief of police or other executive head of a county  
35 police department and force established pursuant to the provisions  
36 of N.J.S.40A:14-106 through N.J.S.40A:14-117 shall appoint a full-  
37 time sworn officer of the department and force to serve as the  
38 sexual violence liaison officer.

39 b. The sexual violence liaison officer shall:

40 (1) serve as the department and force in-house expert on how to  
41 conduct sexual violence cases;

42 (2) act as the primary point-of-contact for each local sexual  
43 violence program and county Sexual Assault Response Team as  
44 established pursuant section 6 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-54) to  
45 coordinate an effective community response;

46 (3) represent the department and force at county meetings of the  
47 Sexual Assault Response Team;

- 1 (4) when appropriately trained, provide in-house training on  
2 sexual violence;
- 3 (5) monitor the department and force's compliance with sexual  
4 violence best practices as set forth in the statutory law and Attorney  
5 General policies; and
- 6 (6) serve in any other capacity deemed appropriate by the chief  
7 of police or other executive head of the department or force.
- 8 c. A sexual violence liaison officer shall complete specialized  
9 sexual violence training as specified by the chief of police or other  
10 executive head of the county police department and force.
- 11 d. An officer of the department or force shall be disqualified  
12 from serving as a sexual violence liaison officer if:
- 13 (1) the officer has been the subject of an investigation regarding  
14 sexual violence, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, stalking, or  
15 sexual harassment; or
- 16 (2) a court has issued a protective or restraining order against  
17 the officer.
- 18 e. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the sexual assault  
19 liaison officer from simultaneously serving as a domestic violence  
20 liaison officer or a Megan's Law resource officer.
- 21
- 22 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month  
23 next following enactment.
- 24

25  
26 STATEMENT  
27

28 This bill requires a sexual violence liaison officer to be  
29 appointed to each State Police station and municipal and county  
30 police department.

31 The bill specifically requires the Superintendent of State Police  
32 to designate the Station Intervention Officer as the sexual violence  
33 liaison officer for each State Police station. The chief of police of a  
34 municipal or county police department, as appropriate, is to appoint  
35 a full-time sworn member to serve as the sexual violence liaison.  
36 The liaison for the State Police and for municipal and county police  
37 departments is responsible for serving as the in-house expert on  
38 how to conduct sexual violence cases; acting as the primary point-  
39 of-contact for each local sexual violence program and county  
40 Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to coordinate an effective  
41 community response; when appropriately trained, providing in-  
42 house training on sexual violence; monitoring the compliance with  
43 sexual violence best practices set forth in the statutory law and  
44 Attorney General policies; and serving in any other capacity  
45 deemed appropriate by the superintendent or chief of police.

46 The liaison for municipal and county police departments also is  
47 to represent the department at county meetings of the SART. The  
48 bill provides for a regional investigator of the Victims Services Unit

1 in the Division of State Police to represent the State Police at these  
2 meetings.

3 The State Police sexual violence liaison officer is required to be  
4 a member of the Victim Services Unit of the division; a county or  
5 municipal police officer liaison is required to be a full-time sworn  
6 member of the department. The State Police member or department  
7 police officer also is required to complete specialized sexual  
8 violence training as specified by the superintendent or chief of  
9 police, as applicable.

10 A State Police member or police officer is disqualified from  
11 serving as a sexual violence liaison officer if the member or officer  
12 has been the subject of an investigation regarding sexual violence,  
13 sexual misconduct, domestic violence, stalking, or sexual  
14 harassment; or if a court has issued a protective or restraining order  
15 against the member or officer.

16 The bill authorizes a sexual assault liaison officer to  
17 simultaneously serve as a domestic violence liaison officer and  
18 Megan's Law resource officer.

19 According to the sponsor, having an officer specially trained in  
20 the handling of sexual violence cases at each police department will  
21 strengthen law enforcement's overall response to survivors of these  
22 crimes. Working with survivors of these uniquely traumatic acts  
23 requires a significant amount of specialized training and expertise  
24 that extends beyond the current training requirement. The creation  
25 of a Sexual Violence Liaison Officer (SVLO) will ensure each  
26 department has an in-house resource that can establish departmental  
27 best practices and ensure departmental compliance with current and  
28 future law and policy requirements as they pertain to law  
29 enforcement's response to survivors of sexual violence.

# ASSEMBLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 3075**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2021

The Assembly Women and Children Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3075 (1R).

This bill requires a sexual violence liaison officer to be appointed to each State Police station and municipal and county police department.

The bill specifically requires the Superintendent of State Police to designate the Station Intervention Officer as the sexual violence liaison officer for each State Police station. The chief of police of a municipal or county police department, as appropriate, is to appoint a full-time sworn member to serve as the sexual violence liaison. The liaison for the State Police and for municipal and county police departments is responsible for serving as the in-house expert on how to conduct sexual violence cases; acting as the primary point-of-contact for each local sexual violence program and county Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to coordinate an effective community response; when appropriately trained, providing in-house training on sexual violence; monitoring the compliance with sexual violence best practices set forth in the statutory law and Attorney General policies; and serving in any other capacity deemed appropriate by the superintendent or chief of police.

The liaison for municipal and county police departments also is to represent the department at county meetings of the SART. The bill provides for a regional investigator of the Victims Services Unit in the Division of State Police to represent the State Police at these meetings.

The State Police sexual violence liaison officer is required to be a member of the Victim Services Unit of the division; a county or municipal police officer liaison is required to be a full-time sworn member of the department. The State Police member or department police officer also is required to complete specialized sexual violence training as specified by the superintendent or chief of police, as applicable.

Under the bill, a State Police member or police officer is disqualified from serving as a sexual violence liaison officer if there is a pending internal affairs or criminal investigation of the member or officer.

The bill authorizes a sexual assault liaison officer to simultaneously serve as a domestic violence liaison officer and Megan's Law resource officer.

The bill also authorizes municipal and county police departments to appoint more than one sexual violence liaison officer and to appoint a liaison officer from another municipal or county police department provided that liaison officer can adequately perform the duties set forth in the bill.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3075 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4889 (Vainieri Huttle/Quijano/Speight), which was amended and reported by the committee on this date.

# SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 3075**

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. 3075.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill requires a sexual violence liaison officer to be appointed to each State Police station and municipal and county police department.

The bill specifically requires the Superintendent of State Police to designate the Station Intervention Officer as the sexual violence liaison officer for each State Police station. The chief of police of a municipal or county police department, as appropriate, is to appoint a full-time sworn member to serve as the sexual violence liaison. The liaison for the State Police and for municipal and county police departments is responsible for serving as the in-house expert on how to conduct sexual violence cases; acting as the primary point-of-contact for each local sexual violence program and county Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to coordinate an effective community response; when appropriately trained, providing in-house training on sexual violence; monitoring the compliance with sexual violence best practices set forth in the statutory law and Attorney General policies; and serving in any other capacity deemed appropriate by the superintendent or chief of police.

The liaison for municipal and county police departments also is to represent the department at county meetings of the SART. The bill provides for a regional investigator of the Victims Services Unit in the Division of State Police to represent the State Police at these meetings.

The State Police sexual violence liaison officer is required to be a member of the Victim Services Unit of the division; a county or municipal police officer liaison is required to be a full-time sworn member of the department. The State Police member or department police officer also is required to complete specialized sexual violence training as specified by the superintendent or chief of police, as applicable.

Under the bill as introduced, a State Police member or police officer is disqualified from serving as a sexual violence liaison officer if the member or officer has been the subject of an

investigation regarding sexual violence, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, stalking, or sexual harassment; or if a court has issued a protective or restraining order against the member or officer. Under the committee amendments, the member or officer would be disqualified if there is a pending internal affairs or criminal investigation.

The bill authorizes a sexual assault liaison officer to simultaneously serve as a domestic violence liaison officer and Megan's Law resource officer.

The committee also amended the bill to authorize municipal and county police departments to appoint more than one sexual violence liaison officer and to appoint a liaison officer from another municipal or county police department provided that liaison officer can adequately perform the duties set forth in the bill.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- 1) provide that the member or officer would only be disqualified if there is a pending internal affairs or criminal investigation of the member or officer;
- 2) authorize local police departments to appoint more than one sexual violence liaison officer; and
- 3) authorize local police departments to share a sexual violence liaison officer if that officer can adequately perform the duties for both departments.

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE**  
**SENATE, No. 3075**  
**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

DATED: DECEMBER 16, 2020

**SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** Establishes sexual violence liaison officer in Division of State Police and local police departments.

**Type of Impact:** Annual State and local expenditure increase

**Agencies Affected:** Department of Law and Public Safety; County and Municipal Law Enforcement Departments.

**Office of Legislative Services Estimate**

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
<b>State Cost Increase</b>		Indeterminate	
<b>Local Cost increase</b>		Indeterminate	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the bill may result in indeterminate annual cost increases for State, county, and municipal law enforcement departments to designate and train Sexual Violence Liaison Officers (SVLOs). The bill may not be overly labor-intensive and law enforcement agencies may be able to absorb the additional workload within their existing operating budgets.

**BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill requires an SVLO to be appointed to each State Police station, county police department, and municipal police department.

The bill requires the Superintendent of State Police to designate the Station Intervention Officer as the SVLO for each State Police station. The chief of police of a municipal or county police department is to appoint a full-time sworn member to serve as the sexual violence liaison. The liaison for the State Police and for municipal and county police departments is responsible for serving as the in-house expert on how to conduct sexual violence cases; acting as the primary point-of-contact for each local sexual violence program and county Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to coordinate an effective community response; when appropriately trained, providing in-house training on sexual violence; monitoring the compliance with sexual violence best practices





set forth in statutory law and Attorney General policies; and serving in any other capacity deemed appropriate by the superintendent or chief of police.

The liaison for municipal and county police departments also is to represent the department at county meetings of the SART. The bill provides for a regional investigator of the Victims Services Unit in the Division of State Police to represent the State Police at these meetings.

The State Police sexual violence liaison officer is required to be a member of the Victim Services Unit of the division; a county or municipal police officer liaison is required to be a full-time sworn member of the department. The State Police member or department police officer also is required to complete specialized sexual violence training as specified by the superintendent or chief of police, as applicable.

The bill authorizes a sexual assault liaison officer to simultaneously serve as a domestic violence liaison officer and Megan's Law resource officer.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

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

The OLS estimates that the bill may result in indeterminate annual cost increases for State, county, and municipal law enforcement departments to designate and train SVLOs. The bill may not be overly labor-intensive and law enforcement agencies may be able to absorb the additional workload within their existing operating budgets.

Under the bill, once the SVLO designation has been made by the respective departments, the State Police, county, and municipal SVLO is required to: 1) complete specialized sexual violence training as specified by their superior; 2) serve as their department's in-house sexual violence expert; 3) be familiar with and monitor the department's compliance with sexual violence best practices as set forth in statutory law and Attorney General policies; 4) attend county SART meetings and be the point of contact as needed; 5) provide in-house training on sexual violence. The OLS estimates the initial training of the SVLO and the attendance of the SART meetings may take the officer from regular duties.

The Police Training Commission (PTC) supervises the administration of basic police training programs in New Jersey, including sexual assault course instruction. As part of that task, the PTC 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. The 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. The OLS estimates that the PTC may be of assistance to any law enforcement departments requiring training or education assistance.

For context, the Uniform Crime Report indicates that during 2016, there were 468 municipal police departments in the State and that the New Jersey State Police acted as the agent for the 77 municipalities without local police services. In addition to the 468 municipal police departments, there were 20 municipalities which contracted with other police departments for local law

enforcement services. In addition to these agencies, there are 21 sheriffs' departments, one county police department, and one county park police department.

*Section: Law and Public Safety*

*Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos  
Senior Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig  
Assistant 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.).

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE**

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 3075  
STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
219th LEGISLATURE**

DATED: DECEMBER 21, 2020

**SUMMARY**

- Synopsis:** Establishes sexual violence liaison officer in Division of State Police and local police departments.
- Type of Impact:** Annual State and local expenditure increase
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Law and Public Safety; County and Municipal Law Enforcement Departments.

**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 Cost Increase</b>		Indeterminate	
<b>Local Cost increase</b>		Indeterminate	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the bill may result in indeterminate annual cost increases for State, county, and municipal law enforcement departments to designate and train Sexual Violence Liaison Officers (SVLOs). The bill may not be overly labor-intensive and law enforcement agencies may be able to absorb the additional workload within their existing operating budgets.

**BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill requires an SVLO to be appointed to each State Police station, county police department, and municipal police department.

The bill requires the Superintendent of State Police to designate the Station Intervention Officer as the SVLO for each State Police station. The chief of police of a municipal or county police department is to appoint at least one full-time sworn member to serve as the sexual violence liaison. The liaison for the State Police and for municipal and county police departments is responsible for serving as the in-house expert on how to conduct sexual violence cases; acting as the primary point-of-contact for each local sexual violence program and county Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to coordinate an effective community response; when appropriately trained, providing in-house training on sexual violence; monitoring the compliance with sexual

violence best practices set forth in statutory law and Attorney General policies; and serving in any other capacity deemed appropriate by the superintendent or chief of police.

The bill authorizes local police departments to appoint more than one sexual violence liaison officer and to share a sexual violence liaison officer if that officer can adequately perform the duties for both departments.

The liaison for municipal and county police departments also is to represent the department at county meetings of the SART. The bill provides for a regional investigator of the Victims Services Unit in the Division of State Police to represent the State Police at these meetings.

The State Police sexual violence liaison officer is required to be a member of the Victim Services Unit of the division; a county or municipal police officer liaison is required to be a full-time sworn member of the department. The State Police member or department police officer also is required to complete specialized sexual violence training as specified by the superintendent or chief of police, as applicable.

The bill authorizes a sexual assault liaison officer to simultaneously serve as a domestic violence liaison officer and Megan's Law resource officer.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

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

The OLS estimates that the bill may result in indeterminate annual cost increases for State, county, and municipal law enforcement departments to designate and train SVLOs. The bill may not be overly labor-intensive and law enforcement agencies may be able to absorb the additional workload within their existing operating budgets.

Under the bill, once the SVLO designation has been made by the respective departments, the State Police, county, and municipal SVLO is required to: 1) complete specialized sexual violence training as specified by their superior; 2) serve as their department's in-house sexual violence expert; 3) be familiar with and monitor the department's compliance with sexual violence best practices as set forth in statutory law and Attorney General policies; 4) attend county SART meetings and be the point of contact as needed; and 5) provide in-house training on sexual violence. The OLS estimates the initial training of the SVLO and the attendance of the SART meetings may take the officer from regular duties, especially if the duties are split between two officers.

The Police Training Commission (PTC) supervises the administration of basic police training programs in New Jersey, including sexual assault course instruction. As part of that task, the PTC 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. The 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. The OLS estimates that the PTC may be of assistance to any law enforcement departments requiring training or education assistance.

For context, the Uniform Crime Report indicates that during 2016, there were 468 municipal police departments in the State and that the New Jersey State Police acted as the agent for the 77 municipalities without local police services. In addition to the 468 municipal police departments,

there were 20 municipalities which contracted with other police departments for local law enforcement services. In addition to these agencies, there are 21 sheriffs' departments, one county park police department, and an estimated two to three county police departments.

*Section: Law and Public Safety*

*Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos  
Senior Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig  
Assistant 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.).

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4889

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 26, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

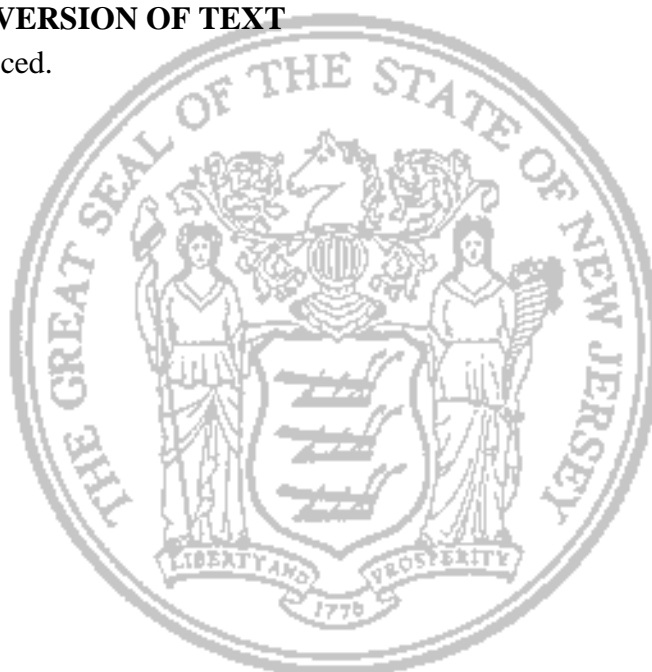
**Assemblywoman Timberlake, Assemblymen Zwicker, Johnson and Chiaravalloti**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes sexual violence liaison officer in Division of State Police and local police departments.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/22/2021)**

1 AN ACT establishing sexual violence liaison officers in certain  
2 police departments and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised  
3 Statutes and Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7  
8 1. a. The Superintendent of State Police shall designate the  
9 Station Intervention Officer as the sexual violence liaison officer  
10 for each State Police station.

11 b. The sexual violence liaison officer shall:

12 (1) serve as the station's in-house expert on how to respond to  
13 sexual violence cases;

14 (2) act as the primary point-of-contact for each local sexual  
15 violence program and county Sexual Assault Response Team as  
16 established pursuant section 6 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-54) to  
17 coordinate an effective community response;

18 (3) when appropriately trained, provide in-house training on  
19 sexual violence and support training implementation by the Victim  
20 Services Unit;

21 (4) monitor the station's compliance with sexual violence best  
22 practices as set forth in the statutory law and Attorney General  
23 policies; and

24 (5) serve in any other capacity deemed appropriate by the  
25 superintendent.

26 c. A sexual violence liaison officer shall complete specialized  
27 sexual violence training as specified by the superintendent.

28 d. A regional investigator of the Victim Services Unit of the  
29 Division of State Police shall:

30 (1) be a member of the Victim Services Unit, or its successor;

31 (2) complete specialized sexual violence training as specified by  
32 the superintendent; and

33 (3) represent the station at county meetings of the Sexual  
34 Assault Response Team.

35 e. A member of the Division of State Police shall be  
36 disqualified from serving as a sexual violence liaison officer or  
37 regional investigator of the Victim Services Unit if:

38 (1) the member has been the subject of an investigation  
39 regarding sexual violence, sexual misconduct, domestic violence,  
40 stalking, or sexual harassment; or

41 (2) a court has issued a protective or restraining order against  
42 the member.

43 f. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the sexual assault  
44 liaison officer from simultaneously serving as a domestic violence  
45 liaison officer or Megan's Law resource officer.

46  
47 2. a. The chief of police or other executive head of a municipal  
48 police department and force established pursuant to the provisions

1 of N.J.S.40A:14-118 shall appoint a full-time sworn officer of the  
2 department and force to serve as a sexual violence liaison officer.

3 b. The sexual violence liaison officer shall:

4 (1) serve as the department and force in-house expert on how to  
5 respond to sexual violence cases;

6 (2) act as the primary point-of-contact for each local sexual  
7 violence program and county Sexual Assault Response Team as  
8 established pursuant section 6 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-54) to  
9 coordinate an effective community response;

10 (3) represent the department and force at county meetings of the  
11 Sexual Assault Response Team;

12 (4) when appropriately trained, provide in-house training on  
13 sexual violence;

14 (5) monitor the department and force's compliance with sexual  
15 violence best practices as set forth in the statutory law and Attorney  
16 General policies; and

17 (6) serve in any other capacity deemed appropriate by the chief  
18 of police or other executive head of the department or force.

19 c. A sexual violence liaison officer shall complete specialized  
20 sexual violence training as specified by the chief of police or other  
21 executive head of the municipal police department and force.

22 d. An officer of the department or force shall be disqualified  
23 from serving as a sexual violence liaison officer if:

24 (1) the officer has been the subject of an investigation regarding  
25 sexual violence, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, stalking, or  
26 sexual harassment; or

27 (2) a court has issued a protective or restraining order against  
28 the officer.

29 e. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the sexual assault  
30 liaison officer from simultaneously serving as a domestic violence  
31 liaison officer or a Megan's Law resource officer.

32

33 3. a. The chief of police or other executive head of a county  
34 police department and force established pursuant to the provisions  
35 of N.J.S.40A:14-106 through N.J.S.40A:14-117 shall appoint a full-  
36 time sworn officer of the department and force to serve as the  
37 sexual violence liaison officer.

38 b. The sexual violence liaison officer shall:

39 (1) serve as the department and force in-house expert on how to  
40 conduct sexual violence cases;

41 (2) act as the primary point-of-contact for each local sexual  
42 violence program and county Sexual Assault Response Team as  
43 established pursuant section 6 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-54) to  
44 coordinate an effective community response;

45 (3) represent the department and force at county meetings of the  
46 Sexual Assault Response Team;

47 (4) when appropriately trained, provide in-house training on  
48 sexual violence;



1 (5) monitor the department and force's compliance with sexual  
2 violence best practices as set forth in the statutory law and Attorney  
3 General policies; and

4 (6) serve in any other capacity deemed appropriate by the chief  
5 of police or other executive head of the department or force.

6 c. A sexual violence liaison officer shall complete specialized  
7 sexual violence training as specified by the chief of police or other  
8 executive head of the county police department and force.

9 d. An officer of the department or force shall be disqualified  
10 from serving as a sexual violence liaison officer if:

11 (1) the officer has been the subject of an investigation regarding  
12 sexual violence, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, stalking, or  
13 sexual harassment; or

14 (2) a court has issued a protective or restraining order against  
15 the officer.

16 e. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the sexual assault  
17 liaison officer from simultaneously serving as a domestic violence  
18 liaison officer or a Megan's Law resource officer.

19  
20 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month  
21 next following enactment.

22  
23  
24 STATEMENT

25  
26 This bill requires a sexual violence liaison officer to be  
27 appointed to each State Police station and municipal and county  
28 police department.

29 The bill specifically requires the Superintendent of State Police  
30 to designate the Station Intervention Officer as the sexual violence  
31 liaison officer for each State Police station. The chief of police of a  
32 municipal or county police department, as appropriate, is to appoint  
33 a full-time sworn member to serve as the sexual violence liaison.  
34 The liaison for the State Police and for municipal and county police  
35 departments is responsible for serving as the in-house expert on  
36 how to conduct sexual violence cases; acting as the primary point-  
37 of-contact for each local sexual violence program and county  
38 Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to coordinate an effective  
39 community response; when appropriately trained, providing in-  
40 house training on sexual violence; monitoring the compliance with  
41 sexual violence best practices set forth in the statutory law and  
42 Attorney General policies; and serving in any other capacity  
43 deemed appropriate by the superintendent or chief of police.

44 The liaison for municipal and county police departments also is  
45 to represent the department at county meetings of the SART. The  
46 bill provides for a regional investigator of the Victims Services Unit  
47 in the Division of State Police to represent the State Police at these  
48 meetings.

1       The State Police sexual violence liaison officer is required to be  
2 a member of the Victim Services Unit of the division; a county or  
3 municipal police officer liaison is required to be a full-time sworn  
4 member of the department. The State Police member or department  
5 police officer also is required to complete specialized sexual  
6 violence training as specified by the superintendent or chief of  
7 police, as applicable.

8       A State Police member or police officer is disqualified from  
9 serving as a sexual violence liaison officer if the member or officer  
10 has been the subject of an investigation regarding sexual violence,  
11 sexual misconduct, domestic violence, stalking, or sexual  
12 harassment; or if a court has issued a protective or restraining order  
13 against the member or officer.

14       The bill authorizes a sexual assault liaison officer to  
15 simultaneously serve as a domestic violence liaison officer and  
16 Megan's Law resource officer.

17       According to the sponsor, having an officer specially trained in  
18 the handling of sexual violence cases at each police department will  
19 strengthen law enforcement's overall response to survivors of these  
20 crimes. Working with survivors of these uniquely traumatic acts  
21 requires a significant amount of specialized training and expertise  
22 that extends beyond the current training requirement. The creation  
23 of a Sexual Violence Liaison Officer (SVLO) will ensure each  
24 department has an in-house resource that can establish departmental  
25 best practices and ensure departmental compliance with current and  
26 future law and policy requirements as they pertain to law  
27 enforcement's response to survivors of sexual violence.

# ASSEMBLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 4889**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2021

The Assembly Women and Children Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4889 and with committee amendments.

As amended by the committee, this bill requires a sexual violence liaison officer to be appointed to each State Police station and municipal and county police department.

The bill specifically requires the Superintendent of State Police to designate the Station Intervention Officer as the sexual violence liaison officer for each State Police station. The chief of police of a municipal or county police department, as appropriate, is to appoint a full-time sworn member to serve as the sexual violence liaison. The liaison for the State Police and for municipal and county police departments is responsible for serving as the in-house expert on how to conduct sexual violence cases; acting as the primary point-of-contact for each local sexual violence program and county Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to coordinate an effective community response; when appropriately trained, providing in-house training on sexual violence; monitoring the compliance with sexual violence best practices set forth in the statutory law and Attorney General policies; and serving in any other capacity deemed appropriate by the superintendent or chief of police.

The liaison for municipal and county police departments also is to represent the department at county meetings of the SART. The bill provides for a regional investigator of the Victims Services Unit in the Division of State Police to represent the State Police at these meetings. The State Police sexual violence liaison officer is required to be a member of the Victim Services Unit of the division; a county or municipal police officer liaison is required to be a full-time sworn member of the department. The State Police member or department police officer also is required to complete specialized sexual violence training as specified by the superintendent or chief of police, as applicable.

Under the bill as introduced, a State Police member or police officer is disqualified from serving as a sexual violence liaison officer if the member or officer has been the subject of an investigation regarding sexual violence, sexual misconduct, domestic violence, stalking, or

sexual harassment; or if a court has issued a protective or restraining order against the member or officer. Under the committee amendments, the member or officer would be disqualified if there is a pending internal affairs or criminal investigation.

The bill authorizes a sexual assault liaison officer to simultaneously serve as a domestic violence liaison officer and Megan's Law resource officer.

The committee also amended the bill to authorize municipal and county police departments to appoint more than one sexual violence liaison officer and to appoint a liaison officer from another municipal or county police department, provided that liaison officer can adequately perform the duties set forth in the bill.

As amended by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 4889 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3075 (1R) (Weinberg/Pou), which was reported by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on December 10, 2020.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to provide that the member or officer would only be disqualified if there is a pending internal affairs or criminal investigation of the member or officer.

The committee amendments also authorize local police departments to appoint more than one sexual violence liaison officer and share a sexual violence liaison officer if that officer can adequately perform the duties for both departments.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 4889 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3075 (1R) which was also reported by the committee on this date.

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE**  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 4889**  
**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

DATED: DECEMBER 16, 2020

**SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** Establishes sexual violence liaison officer in Division of State Police and local police departments.

**Type of Impact:** Annual State and local expenditure increase

**Agencies Affected:** Department of Law and Public Safety; County and Municipal Law Enforcement Departments.

**Office of Legislative Services Estimate**

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<u><b>Year 1</b></u>	<u><b>Year 2</b></u>	<u><b>Year 3</b></u>
<b>State Cost Increase</b>		Indeterminate	
<b>Local Cost increase</b>		Indeterminate	

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the bill may result in indeterminate annual cost increases for State, county, and municipal law enforcement departments to designate and train Sexual Violence Liaison Officers (SVLOs). The bill may not be overly labor-intensive and law enforcement agencies may be able to absorb the additional workload within their existing operating budgets.

**BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill requires an SVLO to be appointed to each State Police station, county police department, and municipal police department.

The bill requires the Superintendent of State Police to designate the Station Intervention Officer as the SVLO for each State Police station. The chief of police of a municipal or county police department is to appoint a full-time sworn member to serve as the sexual violence liaison. The liaison for the State Police and for municipal and county police departments is responsible for serving as the in-house expert on how to conduct sexual violence cases; acting as the primary point-of-contact for each local sexual violence program and county Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) to coordinate an effective community response; when appropriately trained, providing in-house training on sexual violence; monitoring the compliance with sexual violence best practices



set forth in statutory law and Attorney General policies; and serving in any other capacity deemed appropriate by the superintendent or chief of police.

The liaison for municipal and county police departments also is to represent the department at county meetings of the SART. The bill provides for a regional investigator of the Victims Services Unit in the Division of State Police to represent the State Police at these meetings.

The State Police sexual violence liaison officer is required to be a member of the Victim Services Unit of the division; a county or municipal police officer liaison is required to be a full-time sworn member of the department. The State Police member or department police officer also is required to complete specialized sexual violence training as specified by the superintendent or chief of police, as applicable.

The bill authorizes a sexual assault liaison officer to simultaneously serve as a domestic violence liaison officer and Megan's Law resource officer.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

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

The OLS estimates that the bill may result in indeterminate annual cost increases for State, county, and municipal law enforcement departments to designate and train SVLOs. The bill may not be overly labor-intensive and law enforcement agencies may be able to absorb the additional workload within their existing operating budgets.

Under the bill, once the SVLO designation has been made by the respective departments, the State Police, county, and municipal SVLO is required to: 1) complete specialized sexual violence training as specified by their superior; 2) serve as their department's in-house sexual violence expert; 3) be familiar with and monitor the department's compliance with sexual violence best practices as set forth in statutory law and Attorney General policies; 4) attend county SART meetings and be the point of contact as needed; 5) provide in-house training on sexual violence. The OLS estimates the initial training of the SVLO and the attendance of the SART meetings may take the officer from regular duties.

The Police Training Commission (PTC) supervises the administration of basic police training programs in New Jersey, including sexual assault course instruction. As part of that task, the PTC 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. The 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. The OLS estimates that the PTC may be of assistance to any law enforcement departments requiring training or education assistance.

For context, the Uniform Crime Report indicates that during 2016, there were 468 municipal police departments in the State and that the New Jersey State Police acted as the agent for the 77 municipalities without local police services. In addition to the 468 municipal police departments, there were 20 municipalities which contracted with other police departments for local law

enforcement services. In addition to these agencies, there are 21 sheriffs' departments, one county police department, and one county park police department.

*Section: Law and Public Safety*

*Analyst: Kristin Brunner Santos  
Senior Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig  
Assistant 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.).

# 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