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GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

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RH/CL

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 107, *approved June 11, 2021*
Assembly, No. 5696 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the modified basic training program for county
2 ¹**[corrections]** correctional police¹ officers and ¹**[amending**
3 **P.L.2019, c.247]** supplementing Title 52 of the Revised
4 Statutes¹.

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

8
9 ¹**[**1. Section 1 of P.L.2019, c.247 (C.52:17B-68.2) is amended
10 to read as follows:

11 1. a. The Police Training Commission in the Division of
12 Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety shall
13 develop a supplemental course to be known as the modified basic
14 training program for county corrections officers. The program shall
15 provide the additional training necessary to allow an eligible county
16 corrections officer to be certified as a county sheriff's officer,
17 detective or investigator in the county prosecutor's office, or county
18 or municipal police officer. The Police Training Commission shall
19 develop the program within 180 days of the effective date of [this
20 act] P.L.2019, c.247 and shall revise the program within 30 days
21 of the effective date of P.L. , c. (now pending before the
22 Legislature as this bill).

23 b. A county corrections officer is eligible for the modified
24 basic training program if the officer has:

25 (1) previously completed a basic training course administered
26 by the Police Training Commission pursuant to P.L.1961, c.56
27 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.);

28 (2) been designated by the county sheriff as eligible to transition
29 into the position of sheriff's officer or by the chief executive officer
30 of the county or municipality, as appropriate, as eligible to
31 transition into the position of detective or investigator in the county
32 prosecutor's office, or county or municipal police officer based on
33 the officer's law enforcement examination test score and seniority;

34 (3) served in the county correction's officer title for a minimum
35 of [36] 12 months in the facility under the jurisdiction of the county
36 sheriff or the chief executive officer of the county, whichever is
37 applicable; and

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:

¹Assembly floor amendments adopted May 20, 2021.

²Senate floor amendments adopted June 3, 2021.

1 (4) a criminal history record background check of the officer has
2 been conducted by the appointing authority and the officer has not
3 been deemed ineligible to transition to the position of sheriff's
4 officer, detective or investigator in the county prosecutor's office,
5 or county or municipal police officer on the basis of any conviction
6 disclosed by the background check.

7 c. The modified basic training program shall, at a minimum,
8 provide comprehensive and consistent training in law enforcement
9 practices and concepts. Each course instructor shall be proficient
10 and experienced in law enforcement practices and concepts.

11 d. The modified basic training program shall be offered at an
12 academy approved by the Police Training Commission to provide
13 police training courses pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1961, c.56
14 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.).

15 e. The waiver rule set forth in N.J.A.C.13:1-8.4 authorizing the
16 Police Training Commission to waive all or part of a basic training
17 course shall apply to an eligible county corrections officer taking
18 the modified basic training program developed pursuant to
19 subsection a. of this section.

20 f. A county corrections officer who successfully completes the
21 modified basic training program shall be eligible for a lateral
22 transfer to the position of sheriff's officer, detective or investigator
23 in the county prosecutor's office, or county or municipal police
24 officer in [the] any county or municipality, as applicable, in [which
25 the officer serves] the State. An officer eligible for a lateral transfer
26 shall not be denied a transfer to an available position without cause.

27 g. The Civil Service Commission shall adopt rules and
28 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
29 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to implement the provisions
30 of this section.

31 (cf: P.L.2019, c.247, s.1)]¹

32
33 ¹1. a. The Police Training Commission shall revise the
34 modified basic training program for county correctional police
35 officers established in section 1 of P.L.2019, c.247 (C.52:17B-68.2)
36 to provide the additional training necessary for an eligible county
37 correctional police officer to be certified as detective or investigator
38 in the county prosecutor's office or a county or municipal police
39 officer.

40 b. The commission shall complete the revisions to the modified
41 basic training program no later than 60 days following the effective
42 date of P.L. _____, c. _____ (now pending before the Legislature as this
43 bill).

44 c. A county correctional police officer is eligible for the
45 revised modified basic training program established in subsection a.
46 of this section if:

47 (1) the officer served in a county correctional facility that closed
48 in calendar year 2021;

1 (2) the officer served in the county correctional police officer
2 title for a minimum of 12 months in the facility under the
3 jurisdiction of the county sheriff or the chief executive officer of the
4 county, whichever is applicable;

5 (3) the officer previously completed a basic training course
6 administered by the Police Training Commission pursuant to
7 P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.);

8 (4) the officer has been designated by the county sheriff as
9 eligible to transition into the position of sheriff's officer or by the
10 chief executive officer of the county or municipality, as appropriate,
11 as eligible to transition into the position of detective or investigator
12 in the county prosecutor's office or county or municipal police
13 officer ²[based on the officer's law enforcement examination test
14 score and seniority]²; and

15 (5) a criminal history record background check of the officer has
16 been conducted by the appointing authority and the officer has not
17 been deemed ineligible to transition to the position of detective or
18 investigator in the county prosecutor's office or county or
19 municipal police officer on the basis of any conviction disclosed by
20 the background check.

21 d. The waiver rule set forth in N.J.A.C.13:1-8.4 authorizing the
22 Police Training Commission to waive all or part of a basic training
23 course shall apply to an eligible county correctional police officer
24 taking the revised modified basic training pursuant to subsection a.
25 of this section.

26 e. An eligible county correctional police officer who
27 successfully completes the modified basic training established
28 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2019, c.247 (C.52:17B-68.2) shall be
29 eligible for a ²[lateral]² transfer to a position as sheriff's officer in
30 any county in the State and an eligible officer who successfully
31 completes the revised modified basic training established pursuant
32 to subsection a. of this section shall be eligible for a ²transfer or
33 lateral² title change ²[or transfer]², as appropriate, to the position
34 of detective or investigator in the county prosecutor's office or
35 county or municipal police officer in any county or municipality, as
36 applicable, in the State. An officer eligible for a ²transfer or lateral²
37 title change ²[or transfer]² pursuant to the provisions of this section
38 shall not be denied a ²[title change or]² transfer ²or title change²
39 to an available position without good cause.

40 f. The Civil Service Commission may adopt rules and
41 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
42 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to implement the provisions
43 of this section.¹

44
45 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

A5696 [2R]

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5

Revises modified basic training program for certain county
correctional police officers to be certified as county prosecutor's
detectives or investigators or county or municipal police officers.

ASSEMBLY, No. 5696

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Assemblywoman LINDA S. CARTER

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Assemblyman JAMES J. KENNEDY

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

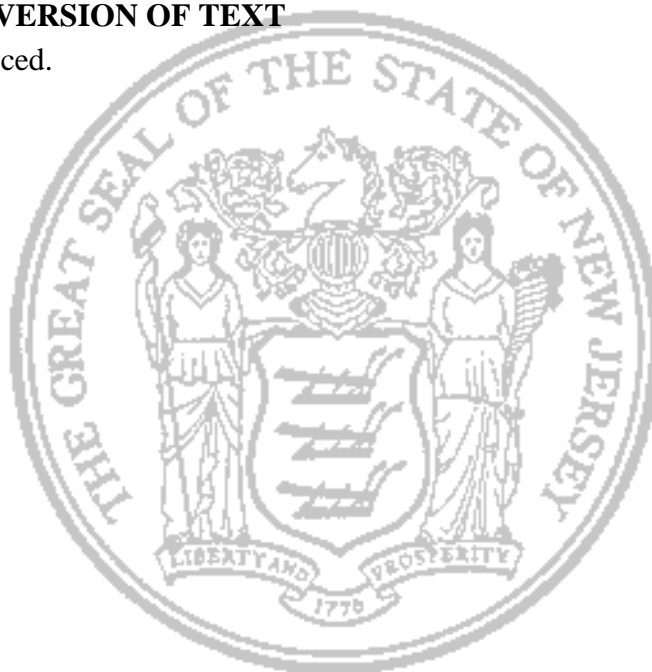
Assemblyman Johnson

SYNOPSIS

Expands modified basic training program to allow county corrections officers to be certified as county prosecutor's detectives or investigators, and county or municipal police officers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/20/2021)

A5696 QUIJANO, CARTER

2

1 AN ACT concerning the modified basic training program for county
2 corrections officers and amending P.L.2019, c.247.

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.2019, c.247 (C.52:17B-68.2) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. The Police Training Commission in the Division of
10 Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety shall
11 develop a supplemental course to be known as the modified basic
12 training program for county corrections officers. The program shall
13 provide the additional training necessary to allow an eligible county
14 corrections officer to be certified as a county sheriff's officer,
15 detective or investigator in the county prosecutor's office, or county
16 or municipal police officer. The Police Training Commission shall
17 develop the program within 180 days of the effective date of [this
18 act] P.L.2019, c.247 and shall revise the program within 30 days
19 of the effective date of P.L. _____, c. _____ (now pending before the
20 Legislature as this bill).

21 b. A county corrections officer is eligible for the modified
22 basic training program if the officer has:

23 (1) previously completed a basic training course administered
24 by the Police Training Commission pursuant to P.L.1961, c.56
25 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.);

26 (2) been designated by the county sheriff as eligible to transition
27 into the position of sheriff's officer or by the chief executive officer
28 of the county or municipality, as appropriate, as eligible to
29 transition into the position of detective or investigator in the county
30 prosecutor's office, or county or municipal police officer based on
31 the officer's law enforcement examination test score and seniority;

32 (3) served in the county correction's officer title for a minimum
33 of [36] 12 months in the facility under the jurisdiction of the county
34 sheriff or the chief executive officer of the county, whichever is
35 applicable; and

36 (4) a criminal history record background check of the officer has
37 been conducted by the appointing authority and the officer has not
38 been deemed ineligible to transition to the position of sheriff's
39 officer, detective or investigator in the county prosecutor's office,
40 or county or municipal police officer on the basis of any conviction
41 disclosed by the background check.

42 c. The modified basic training program shall, at a minimum,
43 provide comprehensive and consistent training in law enforcement
44 practices and concepts. Each course instructor shall be proficient
45 and experienced in law enforcement practices and concepts.

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 d. The modified basic training program shall be offered at an
2 academy approved by the Police Training Commission to provide
3 police training courses pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1961, c.56
4 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.).
- 5 e. The waiver rule set forth in N.J.A.C.13:1-8.4 authorizing the
6 Police Training Commission to waive all or part of a basic training
7 course shall apply to an eligible county corrections officer taking
8 the modified basic training program developed pursuant to
9 subsection a. of this section.
- 10 f. A county corrections officer who successfully completes the
11 modified basic training program shall be eligible for a lateral
12 transfer to the position of sheriff's officer, detective or investigator
13 in the county prosecutor's office, or county or municipal police
14 officer in [the] any county or municipality, as applicable, in [which
15 the officer serves] the State. An officer eligible for a lateral transfer
16 shall not be denied a transfer to an available position without cause.
- 17 g. The Civil Service Commission shall adopt rules and
18 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
19 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to implement the provisions
20 of this section.
21 (cf: P.L.2019, c.247, s.1)

22
23 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
24
25

26 STATEMENT
27

28 This bill authorizes county corrections officers to take a
29 modified training course to transition into a position as a detective
30 or investigator in the county prosecutor's office, or as a county or
31 municipal police officer.

32 Current law authorizes a county corrections officer to transition
33 to a position as a county sheriff's officer by completing a
34 supplemental course known as the modified basic training course
35 for county corrections officers. This abbreviated training course,
36 often referred to as the "GAP program," allows an eligible county
37 corrections officer to be certified as a county sheriff's officer
38 without having to take the entire basic training course required of
39 other candidates for county sheriff's officer positions. Successful
40 completion of the GAP program makes the county corrections
41 officer eligible for a lateral transfer to the county sheriff's office in
42 the county where the officer serves. The officer is not to be denied
43 transfer to an available position without cause.

44 To be eligible for the GAP program under current law, a county
45 corrections officer is required to have: 1) previously completed a
46 Police Training Commission (PTC) basic training course; 2) been
47 designated by the county sheriff as eligible to transition into the
48 position of county sheriff's officer based on the officer's law

A5696 QUIJANO, CARTER

1 enforcement examination test score and seniority; 3) served in the
2 county correction's officer title for a minimum of 36 months in the
3 facility under the jurisdiction of the county sheriff; and 4) passed a
4 criminal history record background check.

5 This bill requires the PTC to expand the GAP program to
6 similarly authorize county corrections officers to transition into
7 positions as detectives or investigators in the county prosecutor's
8 office, or county or municipal police officers. The PTC has 30 days
9 to make the necessary changes to the GAP program to implement
10 provisions of the bill.

11 Under the bill, the chief executive officer of the county or
12 municipality is responsible for designating whether a county
13 corrections officer is eligible to transition to a position as a
14 detective or investigator in the county prosecutor's office or county
15 or municipal police officer based on the officer's examination
16 scores and seniority. The county sheriff continues to be responsible
17 for designating eligible officers to transition to county sheriff's
18 officer positions. The bill also reduces the number of months that
19 the county corrections officer is required to have served in a county
20 correctional facility to be eligible for the GAP program from 36
21 months to 12 months. The bill acknowledges that there are
22 instances in which the county correctional facility is under the
23 jurisdiction of the chief executive officer of the county rather than
24 the county sheriff.

25 Finally, the bill authorizes county corrections officers to laterally
26 transfer to a position as a county sheriff's officer, detective or
27 investigator in the county prosecutor's office, or county or
28 municipal police officer anywhere in the State, not just the county
29 in which they serve.

ASSEMBLY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5696

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 12, 2021

The Assembly State and Local Government Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5696.

This bill authorizes county corrections officers to take a modified training course to transition into a position as a detective or investigator in the county prosecutor's office, or as a county or municipal police officer.

Current law authorizes a county corrections officer to transition to a position as a county sheriff's officer by completing a supplemental course known as the modified basic training course for county corrections officers. This abbreviated training course, often referred to as the "GAP program," allows an eligible county corrections officer to be certified as a county sheriff's officer without having to take the entire basic training course required of other candidates for county sheriff's officer positions. Successful completion of the GAP program makes the county corrections officer eligible for a lateral transfer to the county sheriff's office in the county where the officer serves. The officer is not to be denied transfer to an available position without cause.

To be eligible for the GAP program under current law, a county corrections officer is required to have: 1) previously completed a Police Training Commission (PTC) basic training course; 2) been designated by the county sheriff as eligible to transition into the position of county sheriff's officer based on the officer's law enforcement examination test score and seniority; 3) served in the county correction's officer title for a minimum of 36 months in the facility under the jurisdiction of the county sheriff; and 4) passed a criminal history record background check.

This bill requires the PTC to expand the GAP program to similarly authorize county corrections officers to transition into positions as detectives or investigators in the county prosecutor's office, or county or municipal police officers. The PTC has 30 days to make the necessary changes to the GAP program to implement provisions of the bill.

Under the bill, the chief executive officer of the county or municipality is responsible for designating whether a county corrections officer is eligible to transition to a position as a

detective or investigator in the county prosecutor's office or county or municipal police officer based on the officer's examination scores and seniority. The county sheriff continues to be responsible for designating eligible officers to transition to county sheriff's officer positions. The bill also reduces the number of months that the county corrections officer is required to have served in a county correctional facility to be eligible for the GAP program from 36 months to 12 months. The bill acknowledges that there are instances in which the county correctional facility is under the jurisdiction of the chief executive officer of the county rather than the county sheriff.

Finally, the bill authorizes county corrections officers to laterally transfer to a position as a county sheriff's officer, detective or investigator in the county prosecutor's office, or county or municipal police officer anywhere in the State, not just the county in which they serve.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5696

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 18, 2021

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5696.

This bill authorizes county corrections officers to take a modified training course to transition into a position as a detective or investigator in the county prosecutor's office, or as a county or municipal police officer.

Current law authorizes a county corrections officer to transition to a position as a county sheriff's officer by completing a supplemental course known as the modified basic training course for county corrections officers. This abbreviated training course, often referred to as the "GAP program," allows an eligible county corrections officer to be certified as a county sheriff's officer without having to take the entire basic training course required of other candidates for county sheriff's officer positions. Successful completion of the GAP program makes the county corrections officer eligible for a lateral transfer to the county sheriff's office in the county where the officer serves. The officer is not to be denied transfer to an available position without cause.

To be eligible for the GAP program under current law, a county corrections officer is required to have: 1) previously completed a Police Training Commission (PTC) basic training course; 2) been designated by the county sheriff as eligible to transition into the position of county sheriff's officer based on the officer's law enforcement examination test score and seniority; 3) served in the county correction's officer title for a minimum of 36 months in the facility under the jurisdiction of the county sheriff; and 4) passed a criminal history record background check.

This bill requires the PTC to expand the GAP program to similarly authorize county corrections officers to transition into positions as detectives or investigators in the county prosecutor's office, or county or municipal police officers. The PTC has 30 days to make the necessary changes to the GAP program to implement provisions of the bill.

Under the bill, the chief executive officer of the county or municipality is responsible for designating whether a county corrections officer is eligible to transition to a position as a detective or investigator in the county prosecutor's office or county or municipal police officer based on the officer's examination scores and seniority.

The county sheriff continues to be responsible for designating eligible officers to transition to county sheriff's officer positions. The bill also reduces the number of months that the county corrections officer is required to have served in a county correctional facility to be eligible for the GAP program from 36 months to 12 months. The bill acknowledges that there are instances in which the county correctional facility is under the jurisdiction of the chief executive officer of the county rather than the county sheriff.

Finally, the bill authorizes county corrections officers to laterally transfer to a position as a county sheriff's officer, detective or investigator in the county prosecutor's office, or county or municipal police officer anywhere in the State, not just the county in which they serve.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 5696

with Assembly Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Assemblywoman QUIJANO)

ADOPTED: MAY 20, 2021

Assembly Bill No. 5696 authorizes county corrections officers to take the modified basic training program, as revised by the Police Training Commission, to prepare them to transition into a position as a detective or investigator in a county prosecutor's office or as a county or municipal police officer.

These Assembly amendments limit the provisions of the bill to only allow those county corrections officers who were employed by a county correctional facility which closed in calendar year 2021 to take the revised modified basic training.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 5696

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator SCUTARI)

ADOPTED: JUNE 3, 2021

Assembly Bill No. 5696 (1R) authorizes county corrections officers who were employed by a county correctional facility which closed in calendar year 2021 to take a revised modified basic training program to prepare them to transition into a position as a detective or investigator in a county prosecutor's office or as a county or municipal police officer.

As a condition of eligibility for the program, the bill requires the county corrections officer to be designated by the county sheriff or chief executive officer, as applicable, based on the officer's law enforcement examination test score and seniority.

These Senate amendments remove the requirement that the designation be based on the officer's test score and seniority.

The amendments further clarify that correctional police officers who complete the revised course may transfer to a sheriff's officer position and may transfer or make a lateral title change to a position as a county detective or investigator, or county or municipal police officer.

SENATE, No. 3690

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 26, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Expands modified basic training program to allow county corrections officers to be certified as county prosecutor's detectives or investigators, and county or municipal police officers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

1 AN ACT concerning the modified basic training program for county
2 corrections officers and amending P.L.2019, c.247.

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.2019, c.247 (C.52:17B-68.2) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. The Police Training Commission in the Division of
10 Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety shall
11 develop a supplemental course to be known as the modified basic
12 training program for county corrections officers. The program shall
13 provide the additional training necessary to allow an eligible county
14 corrections officer to be certified as a county sheriff's officer,
15 detective or investigator in the county prosecutor's office, or county
16 or municipal police officer. The Police Training Commission shall
17 develop the program within 180 days of the effective date of **[this**
18 **act]** P.L.2019, c.247 and shall revise the program within 30 days
19 of the effective date of P.L. , c. (now pending before the
20 Legislature as this bill).

21 b. A county corrections officer is eligible for the modified basic
22 training program if the officer has:

23 (1) previously completed a basic training course administered by
24 the Police Training Commission pursuant to P.L.1961, c.56
25 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.);

26 (2) been designated by the county sheriff as eligible to transition
27 into the position of sheriff's officer or by the chief executive officer
28 of the county or municipality, as appropriate, as eligible to transition
29 into the position of detective or investigator in the county
30 prosecutor's office, or county or municipal police officer based on
31 the officer's law enforcement examination test score and seniority;

32 (3) served in the county correction's officer title for a minimum
33 of **[36]** 12 months in the facility under the jurisdiction of the county
34 sheriff or the chief executive officer of the county, whichever is
35 applicable; and

36 (4) a criminal history record background check of the officer has
37 been conducted by the appointing authority and the officer has not
38 been deemed ineligible to transition to the position of sheriff's
39 officer, detective or investigator in the county prosecutor's office, or
40 county or municipal police officer on the basis of any conviction
41 disclosed by the background check.

42 c. The modified basic training program shall, at a minimum,
43 provide comprehensive and consistent training in law enforcement
44 practices and concepts. Each course instructor shall be proficient and
45 experienced in law enforcement practices and concepts.

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 d. The modified basic training program shall be offered at an
2 academy approved by the Police Training Commission to provide
3 police training courses pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1961, c.56
4 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.).
- 5 e. The waiver rule set forth in N.J.A.C.13:1-8.4 authorizing the
6 Police Training Commission to waive all or part of a basic training
7 course shall apply to an eligible county corrections officer taking the
8 modified basic training program developed pursuant to subsection a.
9 of this section.
- 10 f. A county corrections officer who successfully completes the
11 modified basic training program shall be eligible for a lateral transfer
12 to the position of sheriff's officer, detective or investigator in the
13 county prosecutor's office, or county or municipal police officer in
14 【the】 any county or municipality, as applicable, in 【which the officer
15 serves】 the State. An officer eligible for a lateral transfer shall not
16 be denied a transfer to an available position without cause.
- 17 g. The Civil Service Commission shall adopt rules and
18 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
19 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to implement the provisions of
20 this section.
21 (cf: P.L.2019, c.247, s.1)

22
23 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
24
25

26 STATEMENT
27

28 This bill authorizes county corrections officers to take a modified
29 training course to transition into a position as a detective or
30 investigator in the county prosecutor's office, or as a county or
31 municipal police officer.

32 Current law authorizes a county corrections officer to transition to
33 a position as a county sheriff's officer by completing a supplemental
34 course known as the modified basic training course for county
35 corrections officers. This abbreviated training course, often referred
36 to as the "GAP program," allows an eligible county corrections
37 officer to be certified as a county sheriff's officer without having to
38 take the entire basic training course required of other candidates for
39 county sheriff's officer positions. Successful completion of the GAP
40 program makes the county corrections officer eligible for a lateral
41 transfer to the county sheriff's office in the county where the officer
42 serves. The officer is not to be denied transfer to an available
43 position without cause.

44 To be eligible for the GAP program under current law, a county
45 corrections officer is required to have: 1) previously completed a
46 Police Training Commission (PTC) basic training course; 2) been
47 designated by the county sheriff as eligible to transition into the
48 position of county sheriff's officer based on the officer's law

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4

1 enforcement examination test score and seniority; 3) served in the
2 county correction's officer title for a minimum of 36 months in the
3 facility under the jurisdiction of the county sheriff; and 4) passed a
4 criminal history record background check.

5 This bill requires the PTC to expand the GAP program to similarly
6 authorize county corrections officers to transition into positions as
7 detectives or investigators in the county prosecutor's office, or
8 county or municipal police officers. The PTC has 30 days to make
9 the necessary changes to the GAP program to implement provisions
10 of the bill.

11 Under the bill, the chief executive officer of the county or
12 municipality is responsible for designating whether a county
13 corrections officer is eligible to transition to a position as a detective
14 or investigator in the county prosecutor's office or county or
15 municipal police officer based on the officer's examination scores
16 and seniority. The county sheriff continues to be responsible for
17 designating eligible officers to transition to county sheriff's officer
18 positions. The bill also reduces the number of months that the county
19 corrections officer is required to have served in a county correctional
20 facility to be eligible for the GAP program from 36 months to 12
21 months. The bill acknowledges that there are instances in which the
22 county correctional facility is under the jurisdiction of the chief
23 executive officer of the county rather than the county sheriff.

24 Finally, the bill authorizes county corrections officers to laterally
25 transfer to a position as a county sheriff's officer, detective or
26 investigator in the county prosecutor's office, or county or municipal
27 police officer anywhere in the State, not just the county in which they
28 serve.

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3690

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 13, 2021

The Senate Judiciary Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3690.

This bill authorizes county corrections officers to take a modified training course to transition into a position as a detective or investigator in the county prosecutor's office, or as a county or municipal police officer.

Current law, established in section 1 of P.L.2019, c.247 (C.52:17B-68.2), authorizes a county corrections officer to transition to a position as a county sheriff's officer by completing a supplemental course known as the modified basic training course for county corrections officers. This abbreviated training course, often referred to as the "GAP program," allows an eligible county corrections officer to be certified as a county sheriff's officer without having to take the entire basic training course required of other candidates for county sheriff's officer positions. Successful completion of the GAP program makes the county corrections officer eligible for a lateral transfer to the county sheriff's office in the county where the officer serves. The officer is not to be denied transfer to an available position without cause.

To be eligible for the GAP program under current law, a county corrections officer is required to have: 1) previously completed a Police Training Commission (PTC) basic training course; 2) been designated by the county sheriff as eligible to transition into the position of county sheriff's officer based on the officer's law enforcement examination test score and seniority; 3) served in the county correction's officer title for a minimum of 36 months in the facility under the jurisdiction of the county sheriff; and 4) passed a criminal history record background check.

This bill requires the PTC to expand the GAP program to similarly authorize county corrections officers to transition into positions as detectives or investigators in the county prosecutor's office, or county or municipal police officers. The PTC has 30 days to make the necessary changes to the GAP program to implement provisions of the bill.

Under the bill, the chief executive officer of the county or municipality is responsible for designating whether a county corrections officer is eligible to transition to a position as a detective or investigator in the county prosecutor's office or county or municipal

police officer based on the officer's examination scores and seniority. The county sheriff continues to be responsible for designating eligible officers to transition to county sheriff's officer positions. The bill also reduces the number of months that the county corrections officer is required to have served in a county correctional facility to be eligible for the GAP program from 36 months to 12 months. The bill acknowledges that there are instances in which the county correctional facility is under the jurisdiction of the chief executive officer of the county rather than the county sheriff.

Finally, the bill expands the ability of county corrections officers who successfully complete the GAP program to laterally transfer to a position as a county sheriff's officer, detective or investigator in the county prosecutor's office, or county or municipal police officer anywhere in the State, not just the county in which they serve as set forth under current law.

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 3690

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed by Senator SCUTARI)

ADOPTED: JUNE 3, 2021

Senate Bill No. 3690 authorizes county correctional police officers to take the modified basic training program, as revised by the Police Training Commission, to prepare them to transition into a position as a detective or investigator in a county prosecutor's office or as a county or municipal police officer.

These Senate amendments limit the provisions of the bill to only allow those county correctional police officers who were employed by a county correctional facility which closed in calendar year 2021 to take the revised modified basic training.

As a condition of eligibility, the bill requires the county correctional police officer to be designated by the county sheriff or chief executive officer, as applicable, based on the officer's law enforcement examination test score and seniority. These amendments also remove the requirement that the designation be based on the officer's test score and seniority.

The amendments further clarify that correctional police officers who complete the revised course may transfer to a sheriff's officer position and may transfer or make a lateral title change to a position as a county detective or investigator, or county or municipal police officer.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

06/11/2021

TRENTON – Today, Governor Phil Murphy signed the following bills into law:

A-4680/S-2932 (Sweeney/Burzichelli) – Concerns subcontracting agreements entered into by four-year public institutions of higher education

A-5344/S-3197 (Scutari, Smith/Mukherji) – Clarifies eligibility for deferred retirement for certain judges in JRS

A-5696/S-3690 (Quijano, Carter, Kennedy/Scutari, Cryan) – Revises modified basic training program for certain county correctional police officers to be certified as county prosecutor's detectives or investigators or county or municipal police officers

A-5725/S-1246 (Downey, Houghtaling/Gopal, Turner) – Changes dates on which members of municipal and county committees of political party take office and hold annual meetings; transfers certain election responsibilities to county clerks