

30:4-14.2

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

NJSA: 30:4-14.2 (Human Services Police)

LAWS OF: 1997 **CHAPTER:** 72

BILL NO: S1546

SPONSOR(S): Bassano and others

DATE INTRODUCED: October 3, 1996

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Community Services
SENATE: Human Services

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes Amendments during passage denoted
First reprint enacted by superscript numbers

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** March 24, 1997
SENATE: November 25, 1996

DATE OF APPROVAL: April 16, 1997

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes

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

FISCAL NOTE: Yes

VETO MESSAGE: No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS: Yes

HEARINGS: Yes

974.90 New Jersey. Senate Task Force on Greystone Psychiatric Hospital.
I52 Report... Trenton, June 1996.
1996a [see p. 6 & 10]

974.90 New Jersey. Legislature. Senate Task Force on Greystone Psychiatric
I52 Hospital.
1996 Public hearing held April 17, 1996. Morris Plains, 1996.
vol. 3

KBP:pp

[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 1546

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 3, 1996

By Senators BASSANO, CODEY, Martin, MacInnes and
Bubba

1 AN ACT concerning Human Services police officers and amending
2 P.L.1995, c.273.

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

6
7 1. Section 4 of P.L.1995, c.273 (C.30:4-14.2) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 4. Human Services police officers appointed pursuant to
10 R.S.30:4-14 shall satisfy the training requirements established by the
11 Police Training Commission, at ¹ [police academies designated]
12 schools approved¹ by the commission, as follows:

13 a. All officers appointed pursuant to this section after the effective
14 date of **[this act]** P.L.1995, c.273 (C.30:4-14.1 et seq.), shall
15 successfully complete, within one year of the date of their
16 appointment, a training course approved by the Police Training
17 Commission.

18 All officers appointed pursuant to this section after the effective
19 date of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this
20 bill), shall successfully complete, within one year of the date of their
21 appointment, a training course approved by the Police Training
22 Commission, which shall include training designed to prepare officers
23 to handle patients with violent criminal backgrounds and sensitivity
24 training to prepare officers to handle abusive situations between
25 employees and patients, and among patients.

26 b. All officers appointed and in employment on the effective date
27 of **[this act]** P.L.1995, c.273 (C.30:4-14.1 et seq.), may continue in
28 employment if, within 18 months of the effective date of **[this act]**
29 P.L.1995, c.273 (C.30:4-14.1 et seq.) , they have satisfied the training
30 requirements of the Police Training Commission;

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly ACO committee amendments adopted January 9, 1997.

1 All officers appointed and in employment on the effective date of
2 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill), may
3 continue in employment if, within 18 months of the effective date of
4 P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill), they
5 have successfully completed a training course approved by the Police
6 Training Commission, which shall include training designed to prepare
7 officers to handle patients with violent criminal backgrounds and
8 sensitivity training to prepare officers to handle abusive situations
9 between employees and patients, and among patients; and

10 c. The Commissioner of Human Services may request from the
11 Police Training Commission an exemption from all or part of the
12 training requirements of this section on behalf of a current or
13 prospective officer who demonstrates successful completion of a
14 police training course conducted by any federal, state or other public
15 or private agency, the requirements of which are substantially
16 equivalent to the requirements of the Police Training Commission
17 , and which include training officers to handle patients with violent
18 criminal backgrounds and sensitivity training pursuant to this section.

19 (cf: P.L.1995, c.273, s.4)

20

21 2. This act shall take effect 60 days after enactment.

22

23

24

25

26

27 Requires Human Services police officers to receive specific training
28 concerning patient abuse and violent patients.

1 have successfully completed a training course approved by the Police
2 Training Commission, which shall include training designed to prepare
3 officers to handle patients with violent criminal backgrounds and
4 sensitivity training to prepare officers to handle abusive situations
5 between employees and patients, and among patients; and

6 c. The Commissioner of Human Services may request from the
7 Police Training Commission an exemption from all or part of the
8 training requirements of this section on behalf of a current or
9 prospective officer who demonstrates successful completion of a
10 police training course conducted by any federal, state or other public
11 or private agency, the requirements of which are substantially
12 equivalent to the requirements of the Police Training Commission
13 , and which include training officers to handle patients with violent
14 criminal backgrounds and sensitivity training pursuant to this section.
15 (cf: P.L.1995, c.273, s.4)

16

17 2. This act shall take effect 60 days after enactment.

18

19

20

STATEMENT

21

22 This bill amends P.L.1995, c.273 (C.30:4-14.1 et seq.) by
23 specifying that the training requirements for the Human Services police
24 officers include a course which prepares the officers to handle patients
25 with violent criminal backgrounds and abusive situations between
26 employees and patients, and among patients.

27 Also, the bill provides that the training requirements established by
28 the Police Training Commission be satisfied at designated police
29 academies.

30 Lastly, the bill specifies a time frame for the successful completion
31 of training requirements. Officers who are appointed after the
32 effective date of the bill must successfully complete the training course
33 within one year of the effective date. Those officers who are
34 appointed and already in employment on the effective date, have 18
35 months to satisfy the requirements. These time frames are the same as
36 those provided under the current law which this bill amends,
37 P.L.1995, c.273 (C.30:4-14.1 et seq.).

38 This legislation is part of a package of bills which was
39 recommended in the Final Report of the Senate Task Force on
40 Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital, June 1996, and is designed to
41 improve the services provided by the Human Services police.

42

43

44

45 Requires Human Services police officers to receive specific training
46 concerning patient abuse and violent patients.

ASSEMBLY COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1546

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 9, 1997

The Assembly Community Services Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1546 with amendments.

As amended by committee, this bill amends P.L.1995, c.273 (C.30:4-14.1 et seq.) by specifying that the training requirements for the Human Services police officers include a course which prepares the officers to handle patients with violent criminal backgrounds and abusive situations between employees and patients, and among patients.

Also, the bill provides that the training requirements established by the Police Training Commission be satisfied at schools approved by the commission.

Lastly, the bill specifies a time frame for the successful completion of training requirements. Officers who are appointed after the effective date of the bill must successfully complete the training course within one year of the effective date. Those officers who are appointed and already in employment on the effective date, have 18 months to satisfy the requirements. These time frames are the same as those provided under the current law which this bill amends, P.L.1995, c.273 (C.30:4-14.1 et seq.).

The amendments are technical in nature and specify that the training of Human Services police officers shall occur at schools approved by, instead of at police academies designated by, the Police Training Commission.

This legislation is part of a package of bills which was recommended in the Final Report of the Senate Task Force on Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital (June 1996) and is designed to improve the services provided by the Human Services police.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2430, which was released by this committee on this date.

SENATE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1546

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 4, 1996

The Senate Human Services Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1546.

This bill amends P.L.1995, c.273 (C.30:4-14.1 et al.) by specifying that the training requirements for the Human Services police officers include a course which prepares the officers to handle patients with violent criminal backgrounds and abusive situations between employees and patients, and among patients.

Also, the bill provides that the training requirements established by the Police Training Commission be satisfied at designated police academies.

Lastly, the bill specifies a time frame for the successful completion of training requirements. Officers who are appointed after the effective date of the bill must successfully complete the training course within one year of their appointment. Those officers who are appointed and already in employment on the effective date have 18 months to satisfy the requirements. These time frames are the same as those provided under the current law which this bill amends, P.L.1995, c.273 (C.30:4-14.1 et seq.).

This legislation is part of a package of bills which was recommended in the Final Report of the Senate Task Force on Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital, June 1996, and is designed to improve the services provided by the Human Services police.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE TO

SENATE, No. 1546

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 3, 1996

Bill Summary:

Senate Bill No. 1546 of 1996 requires that the training requirements for appointed Human Services police officers include a course (approved by the Police Training Commission) which prepares the officers to handle patients with violent criminal backgrounds and abusive situations between employees and patients, and among patients. Newly appointed officers would have to complete the training course within one year of the legislation's effective date while current officers would have 18 months to satisfy the training requirements.

Agency Comments:

The Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Office of Management and Budget have not provided any fiscal information on the legislation.

Office of Legislative Services Comments:

The Office of Legislative Services is not able to determine whether the legislation entails any new cost to the State. If the new training requirement can replace an existing training requirement, no additional cost would be incurred with respect to Human Services police officers who are appointed after the new training requirement is adopted.

At this time neither the cost associated with the new training requirement nor the amount of time needed to satisfy the new training requirement is known. As such, the cost to DHS in terms of both the training course itself and the amount of time off that might have to be granted existing Human Services police officers to complete such training cannot be determined.

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.

174.701
G61



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

CN-004

CONTACT: Pete McDonough
609-777-2600

TRENTON, NJ 08625

RELEASE: Wednesday
APRIL 16, 1997

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed legislation to improve the care for people with severe mental illness in the state's psychiatric hospitals, part of her continuing commitment to improving mental health services.

The legislation stems from the work of a Senate Task Force headed by Sen. Robert Martin R-Morris, that looked at Greystone Park Psychiatric Hospital. The changes in the law, however, apply to all state psychiatric hospitals.

"It's a right of every patient to receive safe, effective care in our psychiatric hospitals and it is our responsibility to meet that standard. These bills will increase accountability and make our hospitals better," Gov. Whitman said. "This administration has promised to improve mental health services, both inside and outside institutions, and this furthers that goal."

The five bills are S1540, S1541, S1542, S1545 and S1546. The new laws will require unannounced inspections and undercover surveillance at state psychiatric hospitals; prohibit supervision of family members by certain hospital staff; require reporting of patient abuse and professional misconduct in state facilities; check for criminal history every two years for employees in state psychiatric hospitals and developmental centers; and require certain training for Human Services Police, who have jurisdiction at state psychiatric hospitals and development centers.

Gov. Whitman last year appointed Sen. Martin to head a task force to look at the state's legal and mental health system for people found not guilty of crimes by reason of insanity. She also has put in place the state Redirection Plan for mental health, which will improve mental health programs statewide. The plan has reduced the population of Greystone from 670 a year ago to about 570 today and will continue to reduce it to about 450 patients next year. Under the plan, community mental health programs are expanding and the need for hospitalization lessening as the quality of life for people with mental illness improves.

The plan, in the second of its three-year phase in, will use all the money now used to operate Marlboro Psychiatric Hospital to improve mental health services in our remaining state psychiatric hospitals and in all 21 counties.

####