

52:17B-77.4 to 52:17B-77.5

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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(Senior Citizens Crime Prevention)

NJSA: 52:17B-77.4 to 52:17B-77.5

LAWS OF: 1997 CHAPTER: 73

BILL NO: S1096

SPONSOR(S): Bennett

DATE INTRODUCED: May 9, 1996

COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY: ---  
SENATE: Senior Citizens

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

DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: February 27, 1997  
SENATE: June 27, 1996

DATE OF APPROVAL: April 16, 1997

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: No  
SENATE: Yes

FISCAL NOTE: Yes

VETO MESSAGE: No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING: ~~No~~ Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:  
REPORTS: Yes

HEARINGS:

For background see:

974.90 New Jersey. Legislature. Assembly. Senior Citizens Committee.  
044 Public hearing held on prevention and deterrence of crime an  
1986m abuse against senior citizens, held 9-15-86. Trenton, 1986.

KBP:pp

[First Reprint]  
SENATE, No. 1096

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 9, 1996

By Senators BENNETT, KOSCO, Sinagra,  
Bubba, Inverso and Mathesussen

1 AN ACT to establish a senior citizens crime prevention program, and  
2 supplementing chapter 17B of Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. The Attorney General, in consultation with the Crime Prevention  
8 Advisory Committee established under the provisions of P.L.1985, c.1  
9 (C.52:17B-77.1 et seq.), the county prosecutors of this State, and the  
10 American Association of Retired Persons, shall develop and establish  
11 a senior citizens crime prevention program. The program shall  
12 include, but not be limited to:

13 a. Informational services and educational awareness programs  
14 specifically designed to address the needs of senior citizens in the areas  
15 of personal safety, home security, and those types of non-violent  
16 property crimes to which senior citizens are especially susceptible,  
17 such as scams and swindles;

18 b. Information and training programs relating to the organization  
19 and operation of specialized neighborhood watch and crime prevention  
20 programs; and

21 c. Informational services and educational awareness programs for  
22 <sup>1</sup>**[local] county and municipal**<sup>1</sup> law enforcement departments to assist  
23 them in meeting the specialized needs of the senior citizens in their  
24 communities and which may include an outline of suggested programs  
25 and services a <sup>1</sup>**[local] county and municipal**<sup>1</sup> law enforcement  
26 department may initiate to address those special needs, such as the  
27 establishment of a senior citizens bureau within the department to  
28 provide and coordinate the community's senior citizens crime  
29 prevention programs and activities.

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:

<sup>1</sup> Senate SSV committee amendments adopted May 30, 1996.

1       2. ~~'[Each county prosecutor]~~The Attorney General<sup>1</sup> shall transmit  
2 a copy of the senior citizens crime prevention program developed  
3 pursuant to section 1 of this act to each ~~'[local] county and~~  
4 municipal<sup>1</sup> law enforcement department situated within the ~~'[county.~~  
5 The] State. Each county<sup>1</sup> prosecutor may conduct such informational  
6 and training seminars for ~~'[local] county and municipal~~<sup>1</sup> law  
7 enforcement officers as shall be deemed appropriate and necessary to  
8 effectively implement the senior citizens crime prevention program in  
9 the county.

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11       3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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16       \_\_\_\_\_

Establishes senior citizens crime prevention program.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill directs the Attorney General, in consultation with the  
7 Crime Prevention Advisory Committee, the county prosecutors, and  
8 representatives of the American Association of Retired Persons, to  
9 develop and establish a senior citizens crime prevention program.

10 The program is to consist of informational services and educational  
11 awareness programs designed to address issues of special concern to  
12 senior citizens such as personal safety, home security, and how to  
13 avoid scams and swindles; information and training programs relating  
14 to the organization and operation of specialized neighborhood watch  
15 and crime prevention activities; and programs designed to help local  
16 law enforcement departments address the needs of the senior citizens  
17 in their communities.

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22 Establishes senior citizens crime prevention program.

SENATE SENIOR CITIZENS, VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND  
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 1096**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 30, 1996

The Senate Senior Citizens, Veterans' Affairs and Agriculture Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1096.

This bill, as amended, directs the Attorney General, in consultation with the Crime Prevention Advisory Committee, the county prosecutors, and representatives of the American Association of Retired Persons, to develop and establish a senior citizens crime prevention program.

The program shall include: (1) informational services and educational awareness programs designed to address issues of special concern to senior citizens, such as personal safety, home security, and the avoidance of scams and swindles; (2) information and training programs relating to the organization and operation of specialized neighborhood watch and crime prevention activities; and (3) programs designed to help local law enforcement departments address the needs of the senior citizens in their communities.

The committee amended the bill to require the Attorney General, rather than each county prosecutor, to transmit a copy of the program to each county and municipal law enforcement department situated with the State. In addition, the committee made a technical change to clarify that a copy of the program be sent specifically to each county and municipal law enforcement department rather than "local" law enforcement departments.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE TO

[First Reprint]  
**SENATE, No. 1096**

## **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: July 15, 1996

Senate Bill No. 1096 (1R) of 1996 directs the Attorney General, in consultation with the Crime Prevention Advisory Committee, the county prosecutors, and representatives of the American Association of Retired Persons, to develop and establish a senior citizens crime prevention program.

The program would consist of information services and educational awareness programs designed to address issues of special concern to senior citizens such as personal safety, home security, and how to avoid scams and swindles; information and training programs relating to the organization and operation of specialized neighborhood watch and crime prevention activities; and programs designed to help local law enforcement departments address the needs of the senior citizens in their communities. The Attorney General would be required to transmit a copy of the program to each county and municipal law enforcement department in the State.

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that enactment of this bill would have a minimal fiscal impact on the State. Development of the program and its transmittal could be performed within the Department of Law and Public Safety's current budgeted resources. The program, because of its advisory nature, would impose no significant costs on local governments. However, OLS observes that counties and municipal enforcement departments might incur additional costs by implementing certain initiatives suggested by the program.

The 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.

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## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

**CN-004**

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**TRENTON, NJ 08625**

**RELEASE: Wednesday**  
April 16, 1997

Senior citizens throughout New Jersey will have the opportunity to learn how to protect themselves from crime under legislation signed today by Governor Christie Whitman.

Under the terms of the law, the state will develop a senior citizens crime prevention program that will serve as a prototype for local and county law enforcement officers and other agencies that provide services to senior citizens.

"Older citizens are often perceived by criminals as easy targets," Governor Whitman said at a bill signing ceremony in Franklin Township, Somerset County. "The law that I am enacting today will help protect senior citizens by heightening public awareness, particularly in the areas of personal security, home safety, street crime and economic crimes, such as scams and frauds.

"By establishing information programs and services for local police departments and community groups, we can ensure that elder citizens have the knowledge they need to keep themselves safe and free from harm," Whitman added. "Whether they are in their homes, at the store, on the highways or on the street, we want seniors to learn about any potential dangers, and how they can protect themselves from serious injury or worse."

Sponsored by Senators John Bennett and Louis Kosco, the law requires the Attorney General, in consultation with the Department of Law and Public Safety's Police Training Commission Crime Prevention Advisory Committee, county prosecutors, and the American Association of Retired persons, to develop the model program.

"The Department of Law and Public Safety is committed to protecting all citizens, including the elderly, from crimes both in and out of the home," Attorney General Peter Verniero said. "The Division of Consumer Affairs in my department ensures that elder citizens are protected from the devastating impact of economic crimes, such as telemarketing fraud. The crime prevention program established today will further

complement our efforts by educating seniors on the dangers of all crimes, from robbery to purse snatching to carjacking.

“This law will protect seniors and give them a better chance at maintaining their independence and dignity,” said Len Fishman, Commissioner of Health and Senior Services. “Just as we are working at the local level to improve the way seniors receive information about services, this program will give seniors the tools to make the right choices when it comes to their personal safety.”

The law also provides for the establishment of training programs to help communities set up neighborhood watch and crime prevention programs geared specifically to elder citizens.

Governor Whitman also announced that she is reactivating the Crime Prevention Advisory Committee, and will soon be appointing members.

Since taking office, Governor Whitman has been committed to making New Jersey's streets safer. She has signed a number of measures to get tougher on criminals--measures like Megan's Law to help communities protect children against sex offenders, and Three Strikes and You're In, to punish violent career criminals. She also initiated a juvenile justice system overhaul. In 1995, she expanded prison space by more than 3,000 beds for the South Woods State Prison in Bridgeton.

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