

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1816

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
211th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2004 SESSION

Sponsored by:

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District 20 (Union)

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SYNOPSIS

Requires DLPS to establish policy for State Police and local law enforcement in working with Safe Return Program to recover lost individuals with Alzheimer's Disease and related disorders.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Law and Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs Committee on January 24, 2005, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/25/2005)

1 AN ACT concerning the training of ¹[local]¹ law enforcement
2 personnel and supplementing chapter 17B of Title 52 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

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

7
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. Alzheimer's disease is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder
10 causing dementia and resulting in such conditions as anxiety, poor
11 judgement, confusion, mood swings and loss of intellectual
12 functioning;

13 b. Of the four million Americans currently diagnosed with
14 Alzheimer's disease, 60% of them will become disoriented and wander
15 off at some point during the disease;

16 c. If a person with Alzheimer's disease wanders off and is not found
17 within the first 24 hours, there is a nearly 50% chance the person will
18 be at risk for serious injury or death;

19 d. Safe Return is a national identification, support and registration
20 program working in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies
21 to safely return individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related
22 disorders, who become lost, to their families and caregivers; and

23 e. It is in the interest of protecting the health and welfare of our
24 State residents diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related
25 disorders to establish a ¹[policy for]requirement that all State Police
26 and¹ local law enforcement personnel ¹[in working with] receive
27 instruction on the utilization of¹ the Safe Return program to facilitate
28 the safe recovery of those who wander off and become lost.

29
30 2. a. The ¹[New Jersey]¹ Department of Law and Public Safety
31 shall establish¹ [, by regulation, a policy] training protocols¹ for ¹the
32 State Police and¹ local law enforcement personnel in ¹[working
33 with]the utilization of¹ the Safe Return program to facilitate the safe
34 recovery of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders
35 who wander off and become lost.

36 b. ¹[The policy]These training protocols¹ shall include, but need
37 not be limited to, the following:

38 (1) guidelines for identifying persons with Alzheimer's disease and
39 related disorders;

40 (2) guidelines on communicating with persons with Alzheimer's
41 disease and related disorders;

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 Senate SLP committee amendments adopted January 24, 2005.

1 (3) guidelines for caring for persons with Alzheimer's disease and
2 related disorders who become lost and disoriented; and

3 (4) guidelines for instruction on the procedures the Safe Return
4 program uses in locating lost individuals with Alzheimer's disease and
5 related disorders.

6 ¹[c. The policy shall be made available to local law enforcement
7 agencies throughout this State.]¹

8

9 3. ¹[A] The State Police or a¹ local law enforcement agency may
10 provide in-service training of its personnel according to the ¹[policy
11 adopted by regulation] training protocols established¹ by the ¹[New
12 Jersey]¹ Department of Law and Public Safety pursuant to section 2
13 of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill) on the
14 specialized needs of persons with Alzheimer's disease and related
15 disorders who become lost.

16

17 4. The Attorney General ¹[shall] may¹, pursuant to the
18 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
19 seq.), adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this
20 act.

21

22 5. This act shall take effect on the 180th day following enactment,
23 but the Attorney General may take such anticipatory administrative
24 action in advance as shall be necessary for implementation of this act.