

Enacted Law Enforcement Laws Initiated/Supported By or Impacting New Jersey State FOP, 1998 – January 25, 2016

1. Flying the flag for public safety

P.L. 1998, c. 16, signed May 6, 1998 – requires the State House flag to be flown at half-staff for law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, and EMTs who die in the line of duty.

2. Death/disability retirement

P.L. 1998, c. 62, signed July 30, 1998 – provides that certain PFRS members shall be deemed retired for ordinary disability as of the date of death.

3. Fees for promotional exams

P.L. 1998, c. 63, signed July 30, 1998 – directs the Commissioner of Personnel to establish application fees for law enforcement officer and firefighter exams.

4. Crisis intervention programs

P.L. 1998, c. 148, signed January 5, 1999 – permits counties to establish crisis intervention services programs for law enforcement officers.

5. Crisis hotline for law officers

P.L. 1998, c. 149, signed January 5, 1999 – establishes the “Law Enforcement Officer Crisis Intervention Services” telephone hotline.

6. Police Memorial Day in New Jersey

P.L. 1998, c. 150, signed January 5, 1999 – designates May 15 of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day in New Jersey.

7. Crimes against K-9 animals

P.L. 1999, c. 13 signed February 3 – upgrades the penalties for killing or injuring animals used by law enforcement agencies.

8. Use of firearms against officers

P.L. 1999, c. 77, signed April 30 – establishes the use of a firearm or imitation firearm against a law enforcement officer as a crime of the third degree.

9. Pension loan repayments

P.L. 1999, c. 132, signed June 25 – permits PFRS retirees and members of other State retirement systems to repay pension loans through deductions from a retirement allowance in the same monthly amount that was deducted from the member's compensation immediately before retirement, until the balance of the loan, together with the interest, is repaid. Eligibility is limited to those who filed for retirement before June 25.

10. More federal officers given greater arrest powers

P.L. 1999, c. 218, signed September 22, 1999 – In the event of a first-, second-, or third-degree crime, full arrest powers have been extended in New Jersey to certain federal law enforcement officers. Under a law passed on September 22, U.S. Postal Police, special agents, investigators, park rangers, and park police of the U.S. Department of Interior now have the authority to make arrests when a crime of the first, second, or third degree is committed or is about to be committed in their presence.

11. 3-year buy-back passes

P.L. 1999, c. 338, signed January 10, 2000 – A PFRS member laid off and then rehired in a covered position to purchase up to three years of service credit for the time between layoff and rehire. The cost will be borne fully by the member, based on his/her salary for the last year of creditable service in the position held at the time of layoff.

12. Relief to survivors of slain police officers

P.L. 1999, c. 399, signed January 18, 2000 – provides relief to survivors of certain slain police officers in an amount equal to amount realized from Mumia Abu-Jamal defense fund concert.

13. 20 & Out law

P.L. 1999, c. 428, signed January 18, 2000 – allows police officers and firefighters to retire after 20 years. Now an officer with 20 years' service can retire on a 50% PFRS pension plus 3 percent for every year up to 25 years. For those with a minimum 25 years' service, retirement health benefits must be negotiated with the employer. Employers cannot negotiate retirement health benefits with employees who have been in the system for less than 25 years.

Under the new law, a survivor (other than line-of-duty) will receive a pension amounting to 50% of final salary, plus a lump sum insurance payment of 3.5 times the officer's salary at the time of death.

As for disability benefits, an officer who is disabled on the job but not in action will receive 50% of the past year's salary (up from 40%). For a disability incurred in action, the benefits will remain at 66.66%.

14. Throwing of bodily fluids is banned

P.L. 1999, c. 429, signed January 18, 2000 - Throwing bodily fluid at a county correction officer, juvenile detention officer, a sheriff, undersheriff or sheriff's officer, juvenile detention staff members, or any law enforcement officer, is not an aggravated assault.

15. Revision of PFRS funding provisions

P.L. 2000, c. 8, signed March 29, 2000 – revises the funding provisions of PFRS members to guarantee that local employers will not be required to make payments towards the benefit enhancements provided by P.L. 1999, c. 428 (see 9 above).

16. Obstruction of Justice/Resisting Arrest

P.L. 2000, c. 18, signed April 28, 2000 – clarifies criminal statutes dealing with the obstruction of justice and resisting arrest; upgrades penalties for resisting arrest.

17. N.J. Transit Police Officers

P.L. 2000, c. 39, signed June 30, 2000 – grants PFRS service credit to NJ Transit Police Officers for service credited in the federal pension system; provides for retirement allowance offset.

18. Law Enforcement Training Costs

P.L. 2000, c. 106, signed September 8, 2000 – requires certain new employers to reimburse certain former employers for law enforcement training costs.

19. Impersonating a Law Enforcement Officer

P.L. 2000, c. 110, signed September 8, 2000 – makes impersonating a law enforcement officer a crime of the fourth degree.

20. Paid Leave of Absence

P.L. 2000, c. 130, signed September 21, 2000 – requires the State to grant paid leave of absence to members of certain law enforcement associations (NJ Law Enforcement Supervisors Association, NJ Superior Officers Law Enforcement Association, NJ Superior Officers Law Enforcement Association – Captains Unit, International Association of Women Police).

21. Police Ticket Quotas

P.L. 2000, c. 164, signed December 12, 2000 – bans the use of motor vehicle quotas (a prescribed quantity of arrests and citations within a set time period) by local or State agencies as the basis for personnel actions such as promotions, demotions, or employment benefits.

22. Assault on Law Enforcement/Corrections Employees

P.L. 2001, c. 16, signed January 29, 2001 – requires sentence imposed on inmates for assault on corrections and law enforcement employees to run consecutively to other sentences.

23. Pension Increase/Retired Personal

P.L. 2001, c. 4, signed January 16, 2001 – increases 5% pensions of certain retired public safety officer members of PERS, CPFPPF and PFRS.

24. Memorial License Plates

P.L. 2001, c. 41, signed March 27, 2001 – authorizes law enforcement officer memorial license plates for college scholarships for children of law enforcement officers killed in line of duty.

25. Revises PFRS Funding

P.L. 2001, c. 44, signed on March 29, 2001 – revises PFRS funding to reduce local employer's contributions by \$150 million for FY 2001.

26. Enhanced PFRS Survivor Benefits

P.L. 2001, c. 86, signed May 8, 201 – provides enhanced benefits to survivors of certain PFRS members.

27. Police Recognition Week

AR-33, filed with the Secretary of State on May 11, 2001 – designates May 9 through May 15 (annually) as "Police Recognition Week."

28. PFRS Veterans Status

P.L. 2001, c. 128, signed June 28, 2001 – extends TPAF, PERS and PFRS veteran status to certain participants in peace-keeping operations in Somalia and Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

29. Juvenile Justice Records

P.L. 2001, c. 191, signed July 31, 2001 – directs that certain juvenile justice records be available to law enforcement agencies and prosecutors on a 24-hour basis.

30. PFRS Credit

P.L. 2001, c. 201, signed August 8, 2001 – provides full PFRS credit for transferred PERS service of certain PFRS members.

31. Aggravated Assault

P.L. 2001, c. 215, signed August 20, 2001 – upgrades the offense of simple assault against a law enforcement officer.

32. Electronic Devices/Tampering

P.L. 2001, c. 219, signed August 24, 2001 – makes it a crime of the fourth degree to tamper with electronic devices installed in police patrol cars.

33. Rehired Firefighters/PFRS

P.L. 2001, c. 228, signed August 27, 2001 – permits rehired firefighters to purchase PFRS credit for three years of layoff period.

34. Public Benefits

P.L. 2001, c. 248, signed October 4, 2001 – concerns certain public benefits available to persons affected by September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on U.S.

35. Mortgage Loans

P.L. 2001, c. 293, signed December 28, 2001 – makes changes to the mortgage loan program available to members of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS). At present, the interest rate is set a two percent above the weekly average yield of one-year United States Treasury securities. According to the sponsor's statement, the issuance of one-year securities was discontinued early in 2001. This law sets the interest rate at one percent above the weekly average yield of ten-year United States Treasury securities. Ten-year United States Treasury securities are generally used in the private lending sector to determine rates.

36. Paid Leave of Absence

P.L. 2001, c. 309, signed January 3, 2002 – requires paid leave of absence to members of certain law enforcement and firefighter associations to attend State or national conventions. This law limits the employees who are entitled to this benefit to those who represent the New Jersey Policemen's Benevolent Association, Inc., the Fraternal Order of Police, the Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association and the Professional Fire Fighters Association.

37. Pension Benefits

P.L. 2001, c. 318, signed January 3, 2002 – provides pension benefits to certain survivors of certain PFRS members. This law extends the benefits provided in N.J.S.A. 43:16A-9, as increased under P.L. 1999, c. 428, to a widow or widower, child or parent, of a member of the Police and Firemen’s Retirement System (PFRS) with 10 or more years of PFRS service who died in active service on or after June 1, 1995 and before January 1, 1998 and whose widow or widower had, on May 1, 2001, an appeal of a denial of a benefit related to death in the line of duty pending before the PFRS board of trustees. The law requires that the appeal before the board of trustees have been withdrawn or denied and that an eligible beneficiary apply for the increased benefits within 90 days after the bill’s enactment and return to PFRS the member’s aggregate contributions received. The benefits provided under the law will be prospective only, and not retroactive to the date of death of the member. The State will be liable for all costs to the retirement system attributable to this law.

38. Probation Officers

P.L. 2001, c. 362, signed January 7, 2002 – empowers probation officers who have successfully completed a police training program approved by PTC to act as officers for detection, apprehension, arrest and conviction of law offenders (including carrying firearms while in the actual performance of duties).

39. Terrorist Acts

P.L. 2001, c. 325, signed January 5, 2002 – assures workers’ compensation benefits to certain police, fire and emergency personnel under certain circumstances in regard to terrorist acts of September 11, 2001 or pursuant to Governor’s Executive Order.

40. Use of Force

P.L. 2001, c. 381 – requires prosecutor to instruct grand jury in the elements of justification in cases involving use of force by law enforcement officers.

41. Public Records

P.L. 2001, c. 404, signed January 8, 2002 – provides for public access to government records while protecting certain government records from public disclosure (e.g., personnel or pension records, prints of deceased victims taken at scenes of death, criminal investigatory records, victims’ records, records in connection with sexual harassment complaints, personnel or pension records, including grievances).

42. Eluding Law Enforcement Officers

P.L. 2001, c. 412, signed January 8, 2002 – provides that death caused by eluding law enforcement officers is aggravated manslaughter.

43. Modifies Paid Leave of Absence

P.L. 2002, c. 41, signed July 12, 2002 – modifies convention leave provisions in certain cases for member of police and firefighters associations.

44. Racial Profiling

P.L. 2003, c. 31. Racial profiling – FOP efforts resulted in A.G.'s memo of 3/12/03 interpreting the law regarding B.O.L.O.'s.

45. Pension Reform

P.L. 2003, c. 108, signed July 1, 2003 – increases the percentage of final pensionable compensation from 65%/70% to 70%/75% when (and if) the PFRS is certified to be 104% funded, meaning the fund's assets exceed its projected pension payments by at least 4%. (While the FOP supports the concept of the law it has serious concerns with the way the law is written and has proposed new legislation to correct this law's failings.)

46. Early Retirement

P.L. 2003, c. 130, signed July 16, 2003 – provides additional retirement benefits for employees of the State, or of an employer other than the State that elects to offer the benefits.

47. Federal Reserve Law Enforcement Officers

P.L. 2003, c. 139, signed on August 4, 2003 – adds Federal Reserve law enforcement officers to the list of federal law enforcement officers who are authorized to make an arrest for a violation of New Jersey State law if they believe that a crime of the first, second or third degree is or is about to be committed or attempted in their presence.

48. State Park Rangers

P.L. 2003, c. 147, signed on August 15, 2003 – authorizes the DEP to vest in State Park Rangers and other personnel of the DEP the power to effectuate arrests and carry firearms at all times.

49. County Investigators in the County Prosecutors' Offices

P.L. 2003, c. 173, signed on September 9, 2003 – clarifies certain rights, privileges and protections afforded county investigators in the county prosecutor's offices, i.e., they may not be removed for political reasons or for any course other than incapacity, misconduct, or disobedience of rules and regulations.

50. Surviving Spouses

P.L. 2003, c. 181, signed on September 12, 2003 – allows surviving spouses of a member of PFRS or SPRS who died in active service as a result of an accident met in the actual performance of duty to remarry without losing accidental death benefit pension.

51. Corrections Officers

P.L. 2003, c. 218, signed on January 9, 2004 – upgrades the offense of simple assault to that of aggravated assault when committed against a corrections officer, juvenile corrections officer or juvenile detention officer in the line of duty.

52. State Public Safety Interoperable Communications Coordinating Council

P.L. 2003, c. 235, signed on January 9, 2004 – establishes the abovementioned 15-member Council in the Department of Law and Public Safety to address the use of digital technology in public safety communications.

53. Parolees

P.L. 2003, c. 249, signed on January 14, 2004 – prevent parolees from harboring dangerous animals in order to commit criminal activity or threaten the safety of a parole officer.

54. U.S. Department of defense Police

P.L. 2004, c. 10, signed on May 6, 2004—grants DOD police officers the same power of arrest the state now grants to FBI special agents, U.S. Marshal Service deputies and various other federal law enforcement personnel. They will be able to make arrests when they witness crimes of the first, second or third degree—such as murder, assault or robbery.

55. Firemen's Relief Association of the New Jersey State Firemen's Association

P.L. 2004, c. 99, signed by the Governor on July 13, 2004 – requires the Firemen's Relief Association to pay line of duty and other death benefits to the families of firefighters who have served as federal, state or local law enforcements and died in a terrorist attack.

56. Statewide County Correction Information System

P.L. 2004, c. 108, signed by the Governor on July 14, 2004 – creates a permanent, equitable funding source for the Statewide County Correction Information System, a computerized, online network that provides automated defendant information to various criminal justice agencies across New Jersey.

57. Pre-Entry Standards

P.L. 2004, c. 161, signed on December 7, 2004 – authorizes the development and establishment of pre-entry physical and psychological fitness standards for persons seeking enrollment in an approved school for police training courses.

58. New Jersey Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum

P.L. 2004, c. 178, signed by the Governor on December 22, 2004 – designates the New Jersey Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum as the official entity constructing the law enforcement memorial and museum of the State of New Jersey (located in Madison Boro.)

59. Deadly Force

P.L. 2005, c. 250, signed by the Governor on January 4, 2006 – amends the definition of “deadly force” to provide an exemption for law enforcement officers who are using less-lethal ammunition in the performance of their duties.

60. DOC Special Investigations Division

P.L. 2005, c. 263, signed by the Governor on January 5, 2006 – requires that investigations in the DOC – Special Investigations Division are required to complete, prior to permanent appointment, a basic course for investigators approved by the PTC.

61. Police Training Commission

P.L. 2005, c. 268, signed by the Governor on January 5, 2006 – adds a member of the New Jersey County Jail Wardens Association and a member of the New Jersey Juvenile Detention Association to the PTC.

62. Charitable Registration and Investigation Act

P.L. 2005, c. 283, signed by the Govern or on January 9, 2006 – makes various changes to the abovementioned act.

63. School Officers Mandated To Take Special Training

P.L. 2005, c. 276 required that any police officer assigned as a public school resource officer now must complete a PTC-approved course. Any civilian board of education employee assigned as a liaison between the board and a law enforcement agency must also complete the course. The PTC was given 180 days from the law’s passage to develop and implement the new course. All commission-approved schools must conduct the training.

64. Hiring Preference

P.L. 2005, c. 290, signed by the Governor on January 9, 2006 – allows municipalities to give hiring preference to the child of a paid firefighter or law enforcement officer killed while serving in such capacity, except for veteran preference.

65. Mandatory Retirement Age

P.L. 2005, c. 381, signed by the Governor on January 12, 2006 – provides a limited window of opportunity to PFRS members to remain in employment for a reasonable period beyond the mandatory retirement age of 65 in order to gain certain benefits upon retirement.

66. “45-Day Rule

P.L. 2005, c. 54, signed by the Governor on July 28, 2006 – requires that all complaints against law enforcement officers for violations of their department or agency’s internal rules or regulations must be filed within 45-days of establishing the grounds for the complaint.

67. Intergovernmental Transfer Program

P.L. 2006, c.77, signed by the Governor on August 2, 2006 – directs the Commissioner of the Department of Personnel to provide by regulation that law enforcement officers may opt to participate in the intergovernmental transfer program.

68. Blue Heart Law Enforcement Assistance Program

P.L. 2007, c.59, signed by the Governor on March 21, 2007 – provides counseling support for wounded law enforcement officers.

69. Revises Qualifications to Carry Firearms For Certain Retired Police Officers

P.L. 2007, c. 313, signed by the Governor on January 13, 2008 – revises the qualifications for retired law enforcement officers to carry handguns (from up to 70 years of age to up to 75 years of age, with other changes regarding the time period for a retired officer to file for a permit as well as applicability to retired officers from out-of-state domiciled in New Jersey).

70. Qualified Corrections Officers Permitted To Carry Firearms In State

P.L. 2007, c. 314 , signed by the Governor on January 13, 2008 – clarifies that appropriately trained and qualified county corrections officers are authorized to carry a firearm at all times while in the State by virtue of their office as a county corrections officer.

71. Paid Family Leave Benefits

P.L. 2008, c. 17, signed by the Governor on May 2, 2008 – extends TDI to provide family leave benefits for workers caring for sick family members, newborn and newly adopted children

72. United States Park Police

P.L. 2008, c. 42, signed by the Governor on July 15, 2008 – expands State law enforcement powers of United States Park Police.

73. Scrap Metal Dealers

P.L. 2009, c. 8, signed by the Governor on January 27, 2009 – requires scrap metal dealers to maintain certain records regarding purchases.

74. Appeals of Termination

P.L. 2009, c. 16, signed by the Governor on March 5, 2009 – provides certain law enforcement officers and firefighters regain pay status when appeals of termination are not resolved within 180 days.

75. Accidental Death Benefits

P.L. 2009, c. 23 signed by the Governor on March 18, 2009 – “Kelly’s Law,” extends payment of accidental death benefits in PFRS, SPRS, PERS and TPAF to survivors of certain members of reserve component of Armed Forces and National Guard.

76. State Division of Criminal Justice Investigators

P.L. 2009, c. 314 signed by the Governor on January 18, 2010 – removes confidential employee status of Division of Criminal Justice Investigators.

77. Municipal Rehabilitation and Economic Recovery Act

P.L. 2009, c. 337 signed by the Governor on January 18, 2010 – provides Mayors with expanded range of powers. However, the New Jersey State FOP was able to have the law amended to limit the power of the mayor to veto or terminate certain employment contracts during the first 18 months of the economic recovery term so that the power would not apply to employment contracts under extension pursuant to terms under an expired contract.

78. Laid Off Law Enforcement Officers: Hiring

P.L. 2010, c.103 signed by the Governor on December 9, 2010 permits the hiring of certain laid off law enforcement officers by county or municipal police departments or county sheriff’s offices without utilizing the Civil Service lists.

79. Revises Procedure for Police and Fire Contract Disputes; Imposes a “Cap” on Certain Arbitration Awards

P.L. 2010, c. 105 signed by the Governor on December 21, 2010.

80. Killing of Police Dogs

P.L. 2011, c. 77 signed by the Governor on June 21, 2011 enhances the penalty for killing a police dog or a dog engaged in search and rescue efforts.

81. Pension and Health Care Benefits

P.L. 2011, c. 78 signed by the Governor on June 28, 2011 makes various changes to the pension and health care benefits for all public employees, including law enforcement officers.

82. DNA Database

P.L. 2011, c. 104 signed by the Governor on August 18, 2011 expands the DNA database to include samples from certain violent arrestees.

83. Police Training Course

P.L. 2011, c. 158 signed by the Governor on January 5, 2012 establishes that certification for police training course lasts five years.

84. “Corrections Officer Day”

P.L. 2012, c.21 signed by the Governor on July 17, 2012 establishes July 30th. Of each year as “Corrections Officer Day.”

85. DPRA Police

P.L. 2012, c. 72 signed by the Governor on December 3, 2012 affords DPRA police officers authority to inspect hazardous materials carriers and cargoes; clarifies authority of State Police to conduct inspections.

86. Special law Enforcement & County park Police Officers

P.L. 2013, c. 21 signed by the Governor on January 25, 2013 permits appointment and transfer of certain special law enforcement officers and county park police officers by certain sheriffs and counties.

87. Surviving Spouses and Workers Compensation

P.L. 2013, c. 62 signed by the Governor on June 13, 2013 provides surviving spouses of certain fire and police personnel who die in line of duty with workers compensation for entire period of survivorship

88. Unlawful Access of Law Enforcement Vehicles

P.L. 2013, c. 127 establishes offense of unlawfully accessing location of law enforcement vehicles through certain electronic means.

89. Funeral Expenses

P.L. 2013, c. 177 authorizes payment of funeral expenses for certain public safety employees killed in the line of duty.

90. Police and Fire Interest Arbitration

P.L. 2014, c. 226 revises certain laws governing police and fire interest arbitration; incorporates compounding in base salary calculation; extends two-percent cap on base salary awards.

91. AG's Guidelines

P.L. 2015, c. 52 requires police departments of certain educational institutions to adopt Attorney Guidelines on internal affairs policies and procedures.

92. Aggravated Assault Upgrade

P.L. 2015, c. 100 upgrades simple assault to aggravated assault if committed against certain law enforcement officers and employees because of job status.

93. Body Image Scanning

P.L. 2015, c. 213 permits correctional facilities to utilize body imaging scanning equipment.

94. (FOP INITIATIVE)

P.L. 2015, c. 226 prohibits posting, publishing on the internet, or disclosing certain information regarding law enforcement officers.

95. Roadside Memorial Program

P.L. 2015, c. 227 establishes DOT roadside memorial program for fallen police officers,

96. Police Training Commission

P.L. 2015, c.258 expands the PTC membership to include representatives from national Organization of Black Law Enforcement.

97. Security Guards

P.L. 2015, c. 295 expands scope of law governing registration of security guards; designated as “Detective Vincent Santiago’s Law.”

98. Pensions

SCR-184/ACR-109 proposes constitutional amendment to require payments by State to State-administered retirement systems and establish in Constitution right of public employees to pension benefit; provides for enforcement of funding obligations and benefit rights. (Passed and needs to pass once more in the Legislature to be on the 2017 election ballot.)

2014-2015 BILLS VETOED BY THE GOVERNOR

S-264/A-1347: “Thomas P. Canzanella Twenty First Century First responders Protection Act”; concerns workers’ compensation for public safety workers.(This is the second time Governor Christie has vetoed this bill.)

S-929/A-1908: Concerns certain workers’ compensation supplemental benefits.

S-1593/A-2048: Establishes “Police Officer, Firefighter, Public School Teacher, Corrections Officer, and Sanitation Worker Home-buyer Assistance Act; appropriates \$5 million.

S-2623/A-1887: Requires law enforcement agencies in NJ to establish minority recruitment and selection programs; establishes reporting requirement.

S-3201/A-1695: Requires interior light of motor vehicle be turned on when stopped by law enforcement under certain circumstances.

A-4265/S-2783: Permits municipal, county, and regional police and fire forces to establish five-year residency requirement for police officers and firefighters. (Stopping this bill from becoming law was a priority of the FOP)

A-4343: Requires county and municipal police departments to establish cultural diversity training course and plan.