

CHAPTER 103

AN ACT requiring a feasibility study on integrating the Civil Air Patrol with New Jersey Air National Guard homeland security operations.

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

1. The Legislature finds that the New Jersey Wing of the Civil Air Patrol has a history of providing unique assistance in times of emergency. The New Jersey Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, currently staffed with approximately 1,350 dedicated volunteers, is well equipped with aircraft, radios and airborne photography and will be equipped with sensor imaging equipment in the near future. It is necessary and appropriate, therefore, that the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs conduct a study on the feasibility of integrating the New Jersey Wing of the Civil Air Patrol in conducting homeland security operations in support of the State's homeland security initiatives. It is also necessary and appropriate that the Department of Transportation conduct a similar study concerning the integration of the New Jersey Wing of the Civil Air Patrol into homeland security operations in the State's general aviation airports.

2. a. Except as provided for general aviation airports in subsection b. of this section, the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs shall conduct a study on the feasibility of integrating the personnel, aircraft and equipment of the New Jersey Wing of the Civil Air Patrol with the New Jersey Air and Army National Guard in conducting homeland security operations in support of State and federal homeland security initiatives.

b. The Department of Transportation shall conduct a study on the feasibility of integrating the personnel, aircraft and equipment of the New Jersey Wing of the Civil Air Patrol with the New Jersey Air and Army National Guard in conducting homeland security operations in support of State and federal homeland security initiatives at the State's general aviation airports as defined in section 3 of P.L.1983, c.264 (C.6:1-91).

c. The feasibility study shall also identify what legal or procedural steps would have to be taken in order to integrate Civil Air Patrol resources with those of the National Guard.

d. In order to eliminate any duplication of effort, the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs and the Commissioner of Transportation shall coordinate the feasibility studies conducted by their respective departments.

e. No later than three months following the effective date of this act, the Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs and the Commissioner of Transportation shall submit written reports to the Legislature and the Governor describing their findings.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved June 30, 2003.