

CHAPTER 72

AN ACT concerning the training of law enforcement personnel and supplementing chapter 17B of Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

C.52:17B-77.7 Findings, declarations relative to Alzheimer's disease.

1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
 - a. Alzheimer's disease is a progressive neurodegenerative disorder causing dementia and resulting in such conditions as anxiety, poor judgement, confusion, mood swings and loss of intellectual functioning;
 - b. Of the four million Americans currently diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, 60% of them will become disoriented and wander off at some point during the disease;
 - c. If a person with Alzheimer's disease wanders off and is not found within the first 24 hours, there is a nearly 50% chance the person will be at risk for serious injury or death;
 - d. Safe Return is a national identification, support and registration program working in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies to safely return individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, who become lost, to their families and caregivers; and
 - e. It is in the interest of protecting the health and welfare of our State residents diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders to establish a requirement that all State Police and local law enforcement personnel receive instruction on the utilization of the Safe Return program to facilitate the safe recovery of those who wander off and become lost.

C.52:17B-77.8 Training protocols for law enforcement for Safe Return Program.

2. a. The Department of Law and Public Safety shall establish training protocols for the State Police and local law enforcement personnel in the utilization of the Safe Return program to facilitate the safe recovery of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders who wander off and become lost.
 - b. These training protocols shall include, but need not be limited to, the following:
 - (1) guidelines for identifying persons with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders;
 - (2) guidelines on communicating with persons with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders;
 - (3) guidelines for caring for persons with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders who become lost and disoriented; and
 - (4) guidelines for instruction on the procedures the Safe Return program uses in locating lost individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

C.52:17B-77.9 In-service training.

3. The State Police or a local law enforcement agency may provide in-service training of its personnel according to the training protocols established by the Department of Law and Public Safety pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2005, c.72 (C.52:17B-77.8) on the specialized needs of persons with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders who become lost.

C.52:17B-77.10 Rules, regulations.

4. The Attorney General may pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.
5. This act shall take effect on the 180th day following enactment, but the Attorney General may take such anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary for implementation of this act.

Approved April 18, 2005.