

CHAPTER 407

AN ACT concerning conservation officers in the Department of Environmental Protection and amending various parts of the statutory law.

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

1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
 - a. Currently, law enforcement officers of the Division of Fish and Wildlife in the Department of Environmental Protection have the title of “conservation officer”;
 - b. Conservation officers are trained law enforcement officers whose duties and responsibilities have increased beyond the traditional game warden or fish warden role;
 - c. These officers with Statewide authority to enforce the laws of the State, as graduate biologists, receive the same intense training as police officers in the State, and because they usually work alone in remote areas of the State, including inland lakes, boundary rivers, marine waters, bays, inlets, and offshore waters, face the same dangers as other armed and uniformed police officers;
 - d. Grant programs for law enforcement agencies do not recognize the title of conservation officers, hindering the ability of conservation officers to qualify for grant programs for law enforcement agencies; and
 - e. To recognize this, and to enable these officers to qualify for grant programs for law enforcement agencies, it is therefore appropriate to change the title of conservation officer to conservation police officer throughout the statutes.

2. N.J.S.2C:39-6 is amended to read as follows:

Exemptions.

2C:39-6. a. Provided a person complies with the requirements of subsection j. of this section, N.J.S.2C:39-5 does not apply to:

- (1) Members of the Armed Forces of the United States or of the National Guard while actually on duty, or while traveling between places of duty and carrying authorized weapons in the manner prescribed by the appropriate military authorities;
- (2) Federal law enforcement officers, and any other federal officers and employees required to carry firearms in the performance of their official duties;
- (3) Members of the State Police and, under conditions prescribed by the superintendent, members of the Marine Law Enforcement Bureau of the Division of State Police;
- (4) A sheriff, undersheriff, sheriff's officer, county prosecutor, assistant prosecutor, prosecutor's detective or investigator, deputy attorney general or State investigator employed by the Division of Criminal Justice of the Department of Law and Public Safety, investigator employed by the State Commission of Investigation, inspector of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Enforcement Bureau of the Division of State Police in the Department of Law and Public Safety authorized to carry weapons by the Superintendent of State Police, State park police officer, or State conservation police officer;
- (5) Except as hereinafter provided, a State correctional police officer, or a prison or jail warden of any penal institution in this State or the warden's deputies, or an employee of the Department of Corrections engaged in the interstate transportation of convicted offenders, while in the performance of the employee's duties, and when required to possess the weapon by a superior officer, or a correctional police officer or keeper of a penal institution in this State at all times while in the State of New Jersey, provided the person annually passes an

examination approved by the superintendent testing the person's proficiency in the handling of firearms;

(6) A civilian employee of the United States Government under the supervision of the commanding officer of any post, camp, station, base or other military or naval installation located in this State who is required, in the performance of the employee's official duties, to carry firearms, and who is authorized to carry firearms by the commanding officer, while in the actual performance of the employee's official duties;

(7) (a) A regularly employed member, including a detective, of the police department of any county or municipality, or of any State, interstate, municipal or county park police force or boulevard police force, at all times while in the State of New Jersey;

(b) A special law enforcement officer authorized to carry a weapon as provided in subsection b. of section 7 of P.L.1985, c.439 (C.40A:14-146.14);

(c) An airport security officer or a special law enforcement officer appointed by the governing body of any county or municipality, except as provided in subparagraph (b) of this paragraph, or by the commission, board or other body having control of a county park or airport or boulevard police force, while engaged in the actual performance of the officer's official duties and when specifically authorized by the governing body to carry weapons;

(8) A full-time, paid member of a paid or part-paid fire department or force of any municipality who is assigned full-time or part-time to an arson investigation unit created pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1981, c.409 (C.40A:14-7.1) or to the county arson investigation unit in the county prosecutor's office, while either engaged in the actual performance of arson investigation duties or while actually on call to perform arson investigation duties and when specifically authorized by the governing body or the county prosecutor, as the case may be, to carry weapons. Prior to being permitted to carry a firearm, a member shall take and successfully complete a firearms training course administered by the Police Training Commission pursuant to P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.), and shall annually qualify in the use of a revolver or similar weapon prior to being permitted to carry a firearm;

(9) A juvenile correctional police officer in the employment of the Juvenile Justice Commission established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1995, c.284 (C.52:17B-170) subject to the regulations promulgated by the commission;

(10) A designated employee or designated licensed agent for a nuclear power plant under license of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, while in the actual performance of the person's official duties, if the federal licensee certifies that the designated employee or designated licensed agent is assigned to perform site protection, guard, armed response or armed escort duties and is appropriately trained and qualified, as prescribed by federal regulation, to perform those duties. Any firearm utilized by an employee or agent for a nuclear power plant pursuant to this paragraph shall be returned each day at the end of the employee's or agent's authorized official duties to the employee's or agent's supervisor. All firearms returned each day pursuant to this paragraph shall be stored in locked containers located in a secure area;

(11) A county correctional police officer at all times while in the State of New Jersey, provided the officer annually passes an examination approved by the superintendent testing the officer's proficiency in the handling of firearms.

b. Subsections a., b. and c. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to:

(1) A law enforcement officer employed by a governmental agency outside of the State of New Jersey while actually engaged in the officer's official duties, provided, however, that the officer has first notified the superintendent or the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality or the prosecutor of the county in which the officer is engaged; or

(2) A licensed dealer in firearms and the dealer's registered employees during the course of their normal business while traveling to and from their place of business and other places for the purpose of demonstration, exhibition or delivery in connection with a sale, provided, however, that the weapon is carried in the manner specified in subsection g. of this section.

c. Provided a person complies with the requirements of subsection j. of this section, subsections b. and c. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to:

(1) A special agent of the Division of Taxation who has passed an examination in an approved police training program testing proficiency in the handling of any firearm which the agent may be required to carry, while in the actual performance of the agent's official duties and while going to or from the agent's place of duty, or any other police officer, while in the actual performance of the officer's official duties;

(2) A State deputy conservation police officer or a full-time employee of the Division of Parks and Forestry having the power of arrest and authorized to carry weapons, while in the actual performance of the officer's official duties;

(3) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1986, c.150.)

(4) A court attendant appointed by the sheriff of the county or by the judge of any municipal court or other court of this State, while in the actual performance of the attendant's official duties;

(5) A guard employed by any railway express company, banking or building and loan or savings and loan institution of this State, while in the actual performance of the guard's official duties;

(6) A member of a legally recognized military organization while actually under orders or while going to or from the prescribed place of meeting and carrying the weapons prescribed for drill, exercise or parade;

(7) A municipal humane law enforcement officer, authorized pursuant to subsection d. of section 25 of P.L.2017, c.331 (C.4:22-14.1), or humane law enforcement officer of a county society for the prevention of cruelty to animals authorized pursuant to subsection c. of section 29 of P.L.2017, c.331 (C.4:22-14.5), while in the actual performance of the officer's duties;

(8) An employee of a public utilities corporation actually engaged in the transportation of explosives;

(9) A railway policeman, except a transit police officer of the New Jersey Transit Police Department, at all times while in the State of New Jersey, provided that the person has passed an approved police academy training program consisting of at least 280 hours. The training program shall include, but need not be limited to, the handling of firearms, community relations, and juvenile relations;

(10) A campus police officer appointed under P.L.1970, c.211 (C.18A:6-4.2 et seq.) at all times. Prior to being permitted to carry a firearm, a campus police officer shall take and successfully complete a firearms training course administered by the Police Training Commission, pursuant to P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.), and shall annually qualify in the use of a revolver or similar weapon prior to being permitted to carry a firearm;

(11) (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2003, c.168).

(12) A transit police officer of the New Jersey Transit Police Department, at all times while in the State of New Jersey, provided the officer has satisfied the training requirements of the Police Training Commission, pursuant to subsection c. of section 2 of P.L.1989, c.291 (C.27:25-15.1);

(13) A parole officer employed by the State Parole Board at all times. Prior to being permitted to carry a firearm, a parole officer shall take and successfully complete a basic course for regular police officer training administered by the Police Training Commission,

pursuant to P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.), and shall annually qualify in the use of a revolver or similar weapon prior to being permitted to carry a firearm;

(14) A Human Services police officer at all times while in the State of New Jersey, as authorized by the Commissioner of Human Services;

(15) A person or employee of any person who, pursuant to and as required by a contract with a governmental entity, supervises or transports persons charged with or convicted of an offense;

(16) A housing authority police officer appointed under P.L.1997, c.210 (C.40A:14-146.19 et al.) at all times while in the State of New Jersey; or

(17) A probation officer assigned to the "Probation Officer Community Safety Unit" created by section 2 of P.L.2001, c.362 (C.2B:10A-2) while in the actual performance of the probation officer's official duties. Prior to being permitted to carry a firearm, a probation officer shall take and successfully complete a basic course for regular police officer training administered by the Police Training Commission, pursuant to P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.), and shall annually qualify in the use of a revolver or similar weapon prior to being permitted to carry a firearm.

d. (1) Subsections c. and d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to antique firearms, provided that the antique firearms are unloaded or are being fired for the purposes of exhibition or demonstration at an authorized target range or in another manner approved in writing by the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality in which the exhibition or demonstration is held, or if not held on property under the control of a particular municipality, the superintendent.

(2) Subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-3 and subsection d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to an antique cannon that is capable of being fired but that is unloaded and immobile, provided that the antique cannon is possessed by (a) a scholastic institution, a museum, a municipality, a county or the State, or (b) a person who obtained a firearms purchaser identification card as specified in N.J.S.2C:58-3.

(3) Subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-3 and subsection d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to an unloaded antique cannon that is being transported by one eligible to possess it, in compliance with regulations the superintendent may promulgate, between its permanent location and place of purchase or repair.

(4) Subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-3 and subsection d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to antique cannons that are being loaded or fired by one eligible to possess an antique cannon, for purposes of exhibition or demonstration at an authorized target range or in the manner as has been approved in writing by the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality in which the exhibition or demonstration is held, or if not held on property under the control of a particular municipality, the superintendent, provided that performer has given at least 30 days' notice to the superintendent.

(5) Subsection a. of N.J.S.2C:39-3 and subsection d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 do not apply to the transportation of unloaded antique cannons directly to or from exhibitions or demonstrations authorized under paragraph (4) of subsection d. of this section, provided that the transportation is in compliance with safety regulations the superintendent may promulgate. Those subsections shall not apply to transportation directly to or from exhibitions or demonstrations authorized under the law of another jurisdiction, provided that the superintendent has been given 30 days' notice and that the transportation is in compliance with safety regulations the superintendent may promulgate.

e. Nothing in subsections b., c., and d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed to prevent a person keeping or carrying about the person's place of business, residence, premises or other land owned or possessed by the person, any firearm, or from carrying the same, in the

manner specified in subsection g. of this section, from any place of purchase to the person's residence or place of business, between the person's dwelling and place of business, between one place of business or residence and another when moving, or between the person's dwelling or place of business and place where the firearms are repaired, for the purpose of repair. For the purposes of this section, a place of business shall be deemed to be a fixed location.

f. Nothing in subsections b., c., and d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed to prevent:

(1) A member of any rifle or pistol club organized in accordance with the rules prescribed by the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice, in going to or from a place of target practice, carrying firearms necessary for target practice, provided that the club has filed a copy of its charter with the superintendent and annually submits a list of its members to the superintendent and provided further that the firearms are carried in the manner specified in subsection g. of this section;

(2) A person carrying a firearm or knife in the woods or fields or upon the waters of this State for the purpose of hunting, target practice or fishing, provided that the firearm or knife is legal and appropriate for hunting or fishing purposes in this State and the person has in his possession a valid hunting license, or, with respect to fresh water fishing, a valid fishing license;

(3) A person transporting any firearm or knife while traveling:

(a) Directly to or from any place for the purpose of hunting or fishing, provided the person has in possession a valid hunting or fishing license; or

(b) Directly to or from any target range, or other authorized place for the purpose of practice, match, target, trap or skeet shooting exhibitions, provided in all cases that during the course of the travel all firearms are carried in the manner specified in subsection g. of this section and the person has complied with all the provisions and requirements of Title 23 of the Revised Statutes and any amendments thereto and all rules and regulations promulgated thereunder; or

(c) In the case of a firearm, directly to or from any exhibition or display of firearms which is sponsored by any law enforcement agency, any rifle or pistol club, or any firearms collectors club, for the purpose of displaying the firearms to the public or to the members of the organization or club, provided, however, that not less than 30 days prior to the exhibition or display, notice of the exhibition or display shall be given to the Superintendent of the State Police by the sponsoring organization or club, and the sponsor has complied with any reasonable safety regulations the superintendent may promulgate. Any firearms transported pursuant to this section shall be transported in the manner specified in subsection g. of this section;

(4) A person from keeping or carrying about a private or commercial aircraft or any boat, or from transporting to or from the aircraft or boat for the purpose of installation or repair of a visual distress signaling device approved by the United States Coast Guard.

g. Any weapon being transported under paragraph (2) of subsection b., subsection e., or paragraph (1) or (3) of subsection f. of this section shall be carried unloaded and contained in a closed and fastened case, gunbox, securely tied package, or locked in the trunk of the automobile in which it is being transported, and in the course of travel shall include only deviations as are reasonably necessary under the circumstances.

h. Nothing in subsection d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed to prevent any employee of a public utility, as defined in R.S.48:2-13, doing business in this State or any United States Postal Service employee, while in the actual performance of duties which specifically require regular and frequent visits to private premises, from possessing, carrying or using any device which projects, releases or emits any substance specified as being noninjurious to

canines or other animals by the Commissioner of Health and which immobilizes only on a temporary basis and produces only temporary physical discomfort through being vaporized or otherwise dispensed in the air for the sole purpose of repelling canine or other animal attacks.

The device shall be used solely to repel only those canine or other animal attacks when the canines or other animals are not restrained in a fashion sufficient to allow the employee to properly perform the employee's duties.

Any device used pursuant to this act shall be selected from a list of products, which consist of active and inert ingredients, permitted by the Commissioner of Health.

i. (1) Nothing in N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed to prevent any person who is 18 years of age or older and who has not been convicted of a crime, from possession for the purpose of personal self-defense of one pocket-sized device which contains and releases not more than three-quarters of an ounce of chemical substance not ordinarily capable of lethal use or of inflicting serious bodily injury, but rather, is intended to produce temporary physical discomfort or disability through being vaporized or otherwise dispensed in the air. Any person in possession of any device in violation of this subsection shall be deemed and adjudged to be a disorderly person, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this subsection, nothing in N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed to prevent a health inspector or investigator operating pursuant to the provisions of section 7 of P.L.1977, c.443 (C.26:3A2-25) or a building inspector from possessing a device which is capable of releasing more than three-quarters of an ounce of a chemical substance, as described in paragraph (1) of this subsection, while in the actual performance of the inspector's or investigator's duties, provided that the device does not exceed the size of those used by law enforcement.

j. A person shall qualify for an exemption from the provisions of N.J.S.2C:39-5, as specified under subsections a. and c. of this section, if the person has satisfactorily completed a firearms training course approved by the Police Training Commission.

The exempt person shall not possess or carry a firearm until the person has satisfactorily completed a firearms training course and shall annually qualify in the use of a revolver or similar weapon. For purposes of this subsection, a "firearms training course" means a course of instruction in the safe use, maintenance and storage of firearms which is approved by the Police Training Commission. The commission shall approve a firearms training course if the requirements of the course are substantially equivalent to the requirements for firearms training provided by police training courses which are certified under section 6 of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-71). A person who is specified in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (6) of subsection a. of this section shall be exempt from the requirements of this subsection.

k. Nothing in subsection d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed to prevent any financial institution, or any duly authorized personnel of the institution, from possessing, carrying or using for the protection of money or property, any device which projects, releases or emits tear gas or other substances intended to produce temporary physical discomfort or temporary identification.

l. Nothing in subsection b. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed to prevent a law enforcement officer who retired in good standing, including a retirement because of a disability pursuant to section 6 of P.L.1944, c.255 (C.43:16A-6), section 7 of P.L.1944, c.255 (C.43:16A-7), section 1 of P.L.1989, c.103 (C.43:16A-6.1), or any substantially similar statute governing the disability retirement of federal law enforcement officers, provided the officer was a regularly employed, full-time law enforcement officer for an aggregate of four or more years prior to the officer's disability retirement and further provided that the

disability which constituted the basis for the officer's retirement did not involve a certification that the officer was mentally incapacitated for the performance of the officer's usual law enforcement duties and any other available duty in the department which the officer's employer was willing to assign to the officer or does not subject that retired officer to any of the disabilities set forth in subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:58-3 which would disqualify the retired officer from possessing or carrying a firearm, who semi-annually qualifies in the use of the handgun the officer is permitted to carry in accordance with the requirements and procedures established by the Attorney General pursuant to subsection j. of this section and pays the actual costs associated with those semi-annual qualifications, who is 75 years of age or younger, and who was regularly employed as a full-time member of the State Police; a full-time member of an interstate police force; a full-time member of a county or municipal police department in this State; a full-time member of a State law enforcement agency; a full-time sheriff, undersheriff or sheriff's officer of a county of this State; a full-time State or county correctional police officer; a full-time State correctional police officer or county correctional police officer; a full-time State or county park police officer; a full-time special agent of the Division of Taxation; a full-time Human Services police officer; a full-time transit police officer of the New Jersey Transit Police Department; a full-time campus police officer exempted pursuant to paragraph (10) of subsection c. of this section; a full-time State conservation police officer exempted pursuant to paragraph (4) of subsection a. of this section; a full-time Palisades Interstate Park officer appointed pursuant to R.S.32:14-21; a full-time Burlington County Bridge police officer appointed pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1960, c.168 (C.27:19-36.3); a full-time housing authority police officer exempted pursuant to paragraph (16) of subsection c. of this section; a full-time juvenile correctional police officer exempted pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection a. of this section; a full-time parole officer exempted pursuant to paragraph (13) of subsection c. of this section; a full-time railway policeman exempted pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection c. of this section; a full-time county prosecutor's detective or investigator; a full-time federal law enforcement officer; or is a qualified retired law enforcement officer, as used in the federal "Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004," Pub.L. 108-277, domiciled in this State from carrying a handgun in the same manner as law enforcement officers exempted under paragraph (7) of subsection a. of this section under the conditions provided herein:

(1) The retired law enforcement officer shall make application in writing to the Superintendent of State Police for approval to carry a handgun for one year. An application for annual renewal shall be submitted in the same manner.

(2) Upon receipt of the written application of the retired law enforcement officer, the superintendent shall request a verification of service from the chief law enforcement officer of the organization in which the retired officer was last regularly employed as a full-time law enforcement officer prior to retiring. The verification of service shall include:

- (a) The name and address of the retired officer;
- (b) The date that the retired officer was hired and the date that the officer retired;
- (c) A list of all handguns known to be registered to that officer;
- (d) A statement that, to the reasonable knowledge of the chief law enforcement officer, the retired officer is not subject to any of the restrictions set forth in subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:58-3; and
- (e) A statement that the officer retired in good standing.

(3) If the superintendent approves a retired officer's application or reapplication to carry a handgun pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, the superintendent shall notify in writing the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality wherein that retired officer resides. In the event the retired officer resides in a municipality which has no chief law

enforcement officer or law enforcement agency, the superintendent shall maintain a record of the approval.

(4) The superintendent shall issue to an approved retired officer an identification card permitting the retired officer to carry a handgun pursuant to this subsection. This identification card shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance and shall be valid throughout the State. The identification card shall not be transferable to any other person. The identification card shall be carried at all times on the person of the retired officer while the retired officer is carrying a handgun. The retired officer shall produce the identification card for review on the demand of any law enforcement officer or authority.

(5) Any person aggrieved by the denial of the superintendent of approval for a permit to carry a handgun pursuant to this subsection may request a hearing in the Superior Court of New Jersey in the county in which the person resides by filing a written request for a hearing within 30 days of the denial. Copies of the request shall be served upon the superintendent and the county prosecutor. The hearing shall be held within 30 days of the filing of the request, and no formal pleading or filing fee shall be required. Appeals from the determination of the hearing shall be in accordance with law and the rules governing the courts of this State.

(6) A judge of the Superior Court may revoke a retired officer's privilege to carry a handgun pursuant to this subsection for good cause shown on the application of any interested person. A person who becomes subject to any of the disabilities set forth in subsection c. of N.J.S.2C:58-3 shall surrender, as prescribed by the superintendent, the person's identification card issued under paragraph (4) of this subsection to the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality wherein the person resides or the superintendent, and shall be permanently disqualified to carry a handgun under this subsection.

(7) The superintendent may charge a reasonable application fee to retired officers to offset any costs associated with administering the application process set forth in this subsection.

m. Nothing in subsection d. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed to prevent duly authorized personnel of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, while in the actual performance of duties, from possessing, transporting or using any device that projects, releases or emits any substance specified as being non-injurious to wildlife by the Director of the Division of Animal Health in the Department of Agriculture, and which may immobilize wildlife and produces only temporary physical discomfort through being vaporized or otherwise dispensed in the air for the purpose of repelling bear or other animal attacks or for the aversive conditioning of wildlife.

n. Nothing in subsection b., c., d. or e. of N.J.S.2C:39-5 shall be construed to prevent duly authorized personnel of the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, while in the actual performance of duties, from possessing, transporting or using hand held pistol-like devices, rifles or shotguns that launch pyrotechnic missiles for the sole purpose of frightening, hazing or aversive conditioning of nuisance or depredating wildlife; from possessing, transporting or using rifles, pistols or similar devices for the sole purpose of chemically immobilizing wild or non-domestic animals; or, provided the duly authorized person complies with the requirements of subsection j. of this section, from possessing, transporting or using rifles or shotguns, upon completion of a Police Training Commission approved training course, in order to dispatch injured or dangerous animals or for non-lethal use for the purpose of frightening, hazing or aversive conditioning of nuisance or depredating wildlife.

3. Section 14 of P.L.1979, c.179 (C.2C:58-6.1) is amended to read as follows:

C.2C:58-6.1 Possession of firearms by minors; exceptions.

14. a. No person under the age of 18 years shall purchase, barter or otherwise acquire a firearm and no person under the age of 21 years shall purchase, barter or otherwise acquire a handgun, unless the person is authorized to possess the handgun in connection with the performance of official duties under the provisions of N.J.S.2C:39-6.

b. No person under the age of 18 years shall possess, carry, fire or use a firearm except as provided under paragraphs (1), (2), (3) and (4) of this subsection; and, unless authorized in connection with the performance of official duties under the provisions of N.J.S.2C:39-6, no person under the age of 21 years shall possess, carry, fire or use a handgun except under the following circumstances:

(1) In the actual presence or under the direct supervision of his father, mother or guardian, or some other person who holds a permit to carry a handgun or a firearms purchaser identification card, as the case may be; or

(2) For the purpose of military drill under the auspices of a legally recognized military organization and under competent supervision; or

(3) For the purpose of competition, target practice, instruction, and training in and upon a firing range approved by the governing body of the municipality in which the range is located or the National Rifle Association and which is under competent supervision at the time of such supervision or target practice or instruction and training at any location; or

(4) For the purpose of hunting during the regularly designated hunting season, provided that he possesses a valid hunting license and has successfully completed a hunter's safety course taught by a qualified instructor or conservation police officer and possesses a certificate indicating the successful completion of such a course.

c. A person who violates this section shall be guilty of a crime of the fourth degree. For purposes of this section the fact that the act would not constitute a crime if committed by an adult shall not be deemed to prohibit or require waiver of family court jurisdiction pursuant to N.J.S.2C:4-11 or to preclude a finding of delinquency under the "New Jersey Code of Juvenile Justice," P.L.1982, c.77 (C.2A:4A-20 et seq.), P.L.1982, c.79 (C.2A:4A-60 et seq.), P.L.1982, c.80 (C.2A:4A-76 et seq.) and P.L.1982, c.81 (C.2A:4A-70 et seq.).

4. Section 1 of P.L.1977, c.167 (C.13:1A-6.1) is amended to read as follows:

C.13:1A-6.1 Power to arrest without warrant; law enforcement training program.

1. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall have the power to vest in the conservation police officers of the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the park police officers and law enforcement operation officers of the Division of Parks and Forestry at all times the power to arrest without warrant any person violating any law of this State committed in their presence and bring the offender before any court having jurisdiction to receive the complaint of such violation. The Department of Environmental Protection, with the approval of the Attorney General, shall establish and maintain a suitable law enforcement training program for such personnel.

5. R.S.23:1-1 is amended to read as follows:

Definitions.

R.S.23:1-1. As used in this title:

"Apprentice license" means any resident's apprentice firearm hunting license, resident's apprentice bow and arrow license, nonresident's apprentice firearm hunting license, or nonresident's apprentice bow and arrow license issued pursuant to R.S.23:3-4;

"Assistant protector" or "assistant fish and game protector" means the Deputy Chief of the Bureau of Law Enforcement in the division;

"Closed season" means the date and time of year when wildlife may not be captured, taken, killed, or had in possession in the field;

"Code" means the State Fish and Game Code;

"Conservation police officer" means any sworn, salaried member of the Bureau of Law Enforcement in the division holding the titles of Conservation Police Officer I, II, or III, and includes the titles of Supervising Conservation Police Officer and Chief of the Bureau of Law Enforcement;

"Council" means the Fish and Game Council in the Division of Fish and Wildlife in the Department of Environmental Protection;

"Delaware river" means the waters of the Delaware river from the Pennsylvania shore to the New Jersey shore, or in the case of any tributaries or inland bays on the New Jersey side, to the mouths of those tributaries or bays;

"Deputy warden" or "deputy fish and game warden" means any commissioned deputy conservation police officer of the Bureau of Law Enforcement in the division;

"Division," "Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife," "board," or "Board of Fish and Game Commissioners" means the Division of Fish and Wildlife in the Department of Environmental Protection;

"Fishing" means the possession of an instrument used to take fish in a condition that makes the instrument readily usable, while in a place or in proximity thereto where fish may be found;

"Hunting" means the possession of an instrument used to take wildlife in a condition that makes the instrument readily usable, while in a place or in proximity thereto where wildlife may be found;

"Open season" means the date and time of year when wildlife may be captured, taken, killed, or had in possession;

"Protector" or "fish and game protector" means the Chief of the Bureau of Law Enforcement in the division;

"Warden" or "fish and game warden" means a conservation police officer;

"Wildlife" means any wild mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish, mollusk, crustacean, or other wild animal or any part, product, egg, or offspring or the dead body or parts thereof.

6. R.S.23:2-11 is amended to read as follows:

Power and authority.

23:2-11. The deputy conservation police officers shall have the power and authority of conservation police officers to enforce Title 23 and the Fish and Game Code, and shall be subject to the regulations provided by law for the enforcement of the Title and Code, but shall receive no salary or other compensation from the State for the performance of duties of law enforcement.

7. Section 73 of P.L.1979, c.199 (C.23:2B-14) is amended to read as follows:

C.23:2B-14 "Act" defined, penalties; enforcement.

73. For purposes of this section, the "act" means and includes all the new sections and amended sections contained herein, all the remaining sections of Title 50 of the Revised Statutes, sections 23:3-41, 23:3-46, 23:3-47, 23:3-48, 23:3-51, 23:3-52, 23:5-9, 23:5-16, 23:9-114, 23:9-115 and 23:9-120 of Title 23 of the Revised Statutes, sections 1, 2, and 3 of P.L.1941, c.211 (C.23:5-24.1 to 23:5-24.3), sections 4 through 17 of P.L.2013, c.74 (C.23:3-51.2 through C.23:3-51.15), and section 12 of P.L.2014, c.57 (C.23:3-51.16).

The commissioner may utilize any or all of the following remedies for any violation of this act:

a. (1) A person who violates the provisions of this act or of any rule, regulation, license or permit adopted or issued pursuant to this act shall be liable to a penalty of not less than \$300 or more than \$3,000 for the first offense and not less than \$500 or more than \$5,000 for any subsequent offense, unless the commissioner has established an alternate penalty for a specific offense pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(2) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection, with the approval of the Marine Fisheries Council, may, by regulation, establish a penalty schedule for any specific violation of this act or of any rule or regulation adopted pursuant to this act. No such penalty may be less than \$30 or more than \$100 for the first offense or less than \$50 or more than \$200 for any subsequent offense. Any penalty provided for by this act or by the fee schedule adopted by the commissioner shall be collected in a civil action by a summary proceeding pursuant to the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999," P.L.1999, c.274 (C.2A:58-10 et seq.). The Superior Court or any municipal court shall have jurisdiction to enforce the "Penalty Enforcement Law of 1999." If the violation is of a continuing nature, each day during which it continues shall constitute an additional, separate and distinct offense.

b. (1) A person who violates the provisions of this act or any rule or regulation or any license or permit adopted or issued pursuant to this act shall be liable to the revocation or suspension of any license or permit held by the violator pursuant to this act for such period of time as the court may choose, except when the rule or regulation violated includes a mandatory revocation or suspension schedule in which case that schedule shall determine the period of time of the revocation or suspension.

(2) In the case of a person who knowingly violates the provisions of R.S.50:2-11, R.S.50:3-13, R.S.50:4-2, or R.S.50:4-3, or any rule or regulation or any license or permit adopted or issued pursuant thereto, the violator shall be subject to a mandatory revocation or suspension of the license or permit or privilege for the taking of oysters, clams or other shellfish held by the violator, or in the case of a violator without the necessary license or permit the loss of the privilege to take oysters, clams or other shellfish, for a period of three years for a first offense, five years for a second offense, and 10 years for the third and any subsequent offense. For purposes of this paragraph, a knowing violator shall include, but need not be limited to: (a) a person who is the holder of a commercial shellfish license or permit; (b) a person who is the holder of a recreational shellfish license or permit who is in possession of more than the daily recreational shellfish limit; (c) a person without any shellfish license or permit who is in possession of more than the daily recreational shellfish limit; (d) a person who is the holder of a recreational shellfish license or permit who is engaging in shellfish activities with the holder of a commercial shellfish license or permit; or (e) a person without the necessary shellfish license or permit who is engaging in shellfish activities with the holder of a commercial shellfish license or permit.

c. If a person violates any of the provisions of this act, or any rule or regulation or any license or permit adopted or issued pursuant to this act, the department may institute a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction for injunctive relief to prohibit and prevent the violation or violations and the court may proceed in the action in a summary manner.

The department is hereby authorized and empowered to compromise and settle any claim for a penalty under this section in such amount in the discretion of the department as may appear appropriate and equitable under all of the circumstances.

d. In addition to the penalties prescribed by this section, a person who violates the provisions of R.S.50:2-11, R.S.50:3-13, R.S.50:4-2, or R.S.50:4-3, or any rule or regulation or any license or permit adopted or issued pursuant thereto, shall be subject to the forfeiture of any vessel, vehicle, or equipment used in the commission of the violation. A designated conservation police officer of the Department of Environmental Protection, a member of the State Police, or any other law enforcement officer may seize and secure any vessel, vehicle, or equipment used in the commission of such a violation. Upon the seizure of the vessel, vehicle, or equipment, the conservation police officer, member of the State Police, or other law enforcement officer shall immediately thereafter institute a civil action to determine if the forfeiture is warranted in the court in which the penalty action was filed pursuant to this section, which court shall have jurisdiction to adjudicate the forfeiture action. The owner or any person having a security interest in the vessel, vehicle, or equipment may secure its release by depositing with the clerk of the court in which the action is pending a bond with good and sufficient sureties in an amount to be fixed by the court, conditioned upon the return of the vessel, vehicle, or equipment to the Department of Environmental Protection upon demand after completion of the court proceeding. The court may proceed in a summary manner and may direct the confiscation of the vessel, vehicle, or equipment by the department for its use or for disposal by sale or public auction. Moneys collected by the department through the sale or public auction of the vessel, vehicle, or equipment shall be used by the Division of Fish and Wildlife for the enforcement of the provisions of this act.

8. Section 1 of P.L.2011, c.23 (C.23:2B-22) is amended to read as follows:

C.23:2B-22 Registry program for saltwater recreational anglers; violations, penalties.

1. a. The commissioner, in consultation with the Marine Fisheries Council, shall establish and implement a registry program for saltwater recreational anglers, which program shall provide for:

(1) the registration, including the name, date of birth, address, telephone number, and other identification and contact information determined to be necessary by the department pursuant to federal requirements, of individuals who engage in recreational fishing:

- (a) in the Exclusive Economic Zone;
- (b) for anadromous species;
- (c) for Continental Shelf fishery resources beyond the Exclusive Economic Zone; or
- (d) in the tidal waters of the State; and

(2) the registration, including the ownership, operator, and identification of the vessel, or vessels used in such fishing.

b. (1) The registry program established pursuant to this section shall be fully consistent with the registry program to be established pursuant to section 201 of Title II of the "Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act of 2006," Pub.L.109-479 (16 U.S.C. s.1881).

(2) Upon establishment of the registry program pursuant to this section, the commissioner shall apply to the Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce to obtain State exemption from federal registry program requirements.

c. The department shall not charge a fee for the registration required pursuant to this section.

d. A person who is under 16 years of age or a customer fishing from a state-licensed or federally permitted for-hire vessel shall not be required to register pursuant to this section.

e. Any person who is required to register pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection a. of this section, and who fails to register in accordance with established registry program requirements, shall be subject to a fine of \$25 for the first offense and \$50 for any subsequent offense. An owner or operator of a state-licensed or federally permitted for-hire vessel who is required to register pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection a. of this section and who fails to register in accordance with the established registry program requirements shall be subject to a fine of \$100 for the first offense and \$200 for any subsequent offense. Any penalty imposed pursuant to this subsection shall be collected in the manner specified in paragraph (2) of subsection a. of section 73 of P.L.1979, c.199 (C.23:2B-14). However, no other provisions of section 73 of P.L.1979, c.199 (C.23:2B-14) shall be applicable in the event that a person fails to comply with the requirements established under this section.

f. In order to facilitate and promote increased awareness of, or compliance with, registry program requirements, the department shall: (1) post information about the registry program and its requirements in a conspicuous place on the department's Internet website; and (2) develop and disseminate informational materials, including, but not limited to, pamphlets and posters, which identify the program's requirements, any relevant compliance deadlines, the available methods for attaining compliance, the penalties for non-compliance, and any other relevant program details.

In disseminating the materials developed pursuant to this subsection, the department shall provide informational pamphlets or other appropriate materials to the State's conservation police officers, for distribution to individuals engaged in recreational fishing activities; and it shall provide informational posters, signs, pamphlets, and other appropriate materials to the State's bait and tackle shops, for display therein, and for distribution to bait and tackle consumers.

g. Any non-resident of New Jersey who is engaged in recreational fishing activities in this State shall be exempt from compliance with the State's registry program requirements if the person is registered under another state's registry program and the state in which the person is registered provides reciprocal exemption from its own registration requirements for persons who are registered under this State's registry program.

9. R.S.23:3-1 is amended to read as follows:

License for hunting, fishing, or trapping; penalty; exceptions.

23:3-1. a. A person shall not at any time hunt, take or attempt to take, kill or pursue, with a gun or any firearm of any kind or character, or with longbow and arrow, a wild bird, animal or fowl, or take or attempt to take any skunk, mink, muskrat, or other fur-bearing animal by means of a trap, or set a trap for any fur-bearing animal, nor shall any person above the age of 16 years at any time take or attempt to take fish in any of the fresh waters of this State by the method commonly known as angling with a hand line or rod and line, or with longbow and arrow, unless he has first procured a proper license.

b. A person shall not engage in hunting, fishing, or trapping unless the appropriate license or tag as prescribed hereunder is visibly displayed in a holder in a conspicuous place on the outer clothing at the time of such hunting, fishing, or trapping. A licensee shall exhibit his license and tag for inspection to any conservation police officer, deputy conservation police officer, police officer, or other person requesting to see it.

c. A person under 12 years of age shall not be issued a trapping license.

d. A person who is on active duty with any branch or department of the armed service of the United States shall be entitled to hunt or fish upon obtaining the proper resident license therefor.

e. Nothing in this section shall prevent the occupant of a farm in this State, who actually resides thereon, or the immediate members of his family who also reside thereon, from hunting for, taking, killing, or pursuing with a gun or firearm or a longbow and arrow on the farm a wild bird, animal or fowl, from taking any skunk, mink, muskrat, or other fur-bearing animal by means of a trap or from setting a trap for a fur-bearing animal on the farm, or from taking fish on the farm with hand line, rod and line, or longbow and arrow in the manner provided by law during the time when it is lawful so to do, without being licensed hereunder. The exemption provided pursuant to this subsection shall not apply to a person residing on the farm or in a tenant house thereon who is not a member of the occupant's family, nor to a servant of the occupant.

f. (1) Any person found hunting, fishing, or trapping without the proper license or tag as may be required conspicuously displayed pursuant to subsection b. of this section shall be liable to a penalty of \$10 and costs, to be recovered pursuant to the provisions of Title 23, chapter 10, of the Revised Statutes.

(2) Any person who violates any provision of this section for which a penalty is not otherwise expressly provided, shall be liable to a penalty of not less than \$50 nor more than \$200 for each offense.

10. Section 1 of P.L.1975, c.117 (C.23:3-61.1) is amended to read as follows:

C.23:3-61.1 "Special pheasant and quail stamp."

1. No person above the age of 16 years shall at any time hunt for, pursue, kill, take, or attempt to take with a firearm or bow and arrow, or have in possession, any pheasant or quail while present in such division wildlife management areas as may be designated in the Fish and Game Code unless such person is the holder of a valid youth hunting license issued pursuant to R.S.23:3-3 or has first procured in addition to a hunting license a valid "special pheasant and quail stamp."

This special pheasant and quail "stamp" shall be in the possession of the hunter at all times while engaged in hunting pheasant or quail in such division wildlife management areas as may be designated in the Fish and Game Code and the hunter shall exhibit the special stamp for inspection to any conservation police officer, deputy conservation police officer, or police officer requesting to see the stamp.

11. Section 2 of P.L.1983, c.504 (C.23:3-76) is amended to read as follows:
C.23:3-76 New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp.

2. a. No person over the age of 16 shall at any time hunt, pursue, kill, take, possess, or attempt to take with a firearm, bow and arrow, or any other method any ducks, geese, brant, or other waterfowl without procuring a New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp, as hereinafter provided, in addition to any other licenses or permits required under Title 23 of the Revised Statutes.

b. The stamp issued pursuant to this act shall be designated the New Jersey Waterfowl Stamp, shall be required to be in the possession of any person engaged in hunting, pursuing, killing, taking, possessing, or attempting to take with a firearm, bow and arrow, or any other method any ducks, geese, brant, or other waterfowl, and shall be exhibited upon the request

of any conservation police officer, deputy conservation police officer, or other law enforcement official.

c. This section shall not apply to any person engaged in hunting, pursuing, killing, taking, possessing, or attempting to take captive-reared mallard ducks, properly marked in accordance with federal regulations, on a commercial shooting preserve.

12. R.S.23:4-43 is amended to read as follows:

Possession of wild deer.

23:4-43. Except as provided by this section, no person shall have in possession in this State any wild deer other than during the open season for hunting deer as established in the State Fish and Game Code and such deer in possession must have been killed in the manner prescribed by the State Fish and Game Code for that particular open season. A legally killed deer and parts of a legally killed deer may be possessed until June 1 immediately following the season in which it was killed, provided the deer was properly registered and bears the possession tag affixed at the deer checking station, and any parts that have been separated from legally killed deer are clearly marked as prescribed in R.S. 23:4-47. A person desiring to retain a legally killed deer or parts thereof after June 1 may do so by contacting the nearest conservation police officer, who may authorize such retention in a manner prescribed by the division. No person shall have in possession any deer of any description, except as provided in the State Fish and Game Code or as provided in this section.

Except as herein provided, the having in possession of any wild deer or parts thereof during the time and periods prohibited in the State Fish and Game Code, or the having in possession of any deer of any description, except during such time and periods and of such description as permitted by the State Fish and Game Code, shall be prima facie evidence in all courts that such wild deer is in possession unlawfully.

This article shall not apply to a deer killed on game preserves, the owners or lessees of which are licensed by the division, or to deer coming from another state, which is properly tagged, showing where the same was killed, or to the disposal, by State or municipal police officers, or by personnel authorized thereby, of deer found dead on or along any public highway or on any private property, upon request of the owner thereof, provided that any such disposal is undertaken in conformance with procedures prescribed by the division.

13. Section 2 of P.L.1993, c.11 (C.23:7A-2) is amended to read as follows:

C.23:7A-2 Prevention of lawful taking of wildlife prohibited.

2. No person may, for the purpose of hindering or preventing the lawful taking of wildlife:

a. block, obstruct, or impede, or attempt to block, obstruct, or impede, a person lawfully taking wildlife;

b. erect a barrier with the intent to deny ingress to or egress from areas where wildlife may be lawfully taken;

c. make, or attempt to make, unauthorized physical contact with a person lawfully taking wildlife;

d. engage in, or attempt to engage in, theft, vandalism, or destruction of personal or real property;

e. disturb or alter, or attempt to disturb or alter, the condition or authorized placement of personal or real property intended for use in the lawful taking of wildlife;

f. enter or remain upon public lands or waters, or upon private lands or waters without permission of the owner thereof or an agent of that landowner, where wildlife may be lawfully taken;

g. make or attempt to make loud noises or gestures, set out or attempt to set out animal baits, scents, or lures or human scent, use any other natural or artificial visual, aural, olfactory, or physical stimuli, or engage in or attempt to engage in any other similar action or activity, in order to disturb, alarm, drive, attract, or affect the behavior of wildlife or disturb, alarm, disrupt, or annoy a person lawfully taking wildlife;

h. interject himself into the line of fire of a person lawfully taking wildlife; or

i. operate as defined in section 1 of P.L.2017, c.315 (C.2C:40-27) an unmanned aircraft system as defined in section 1 of P.L.2017, c.315 (C.2C:40-27).

Subsections a., b., e., f., g., and i. of this section shall not apply to a law enforcement officer or conservation police officer enforcing the laws of this State or any local ordinance, or a private landowner or agent thereof on land or waters owned by that private landowner.

14. R.S.23:10-20 is amended to read as follows:

Searches and seizures; immunity from civil suit.

23:10-20. A member of the Fish and Game Council and any conservation police officer may, without warrant search and examine any boat, conveyance, vehicle, fish box, fish basket, game bag, game coat, or other receptacle for game and fish, when he has reason to believe that a provision of this Title, or any law supplementary thereto, or the State Fish and Game Code has been violated, and shall seize and take possession of any firearms, bows and arrows, shells or cartridges, fishing rods and reels, fishing lines, knives, lights, slingshots, traps, spears, spear guns, or any other article or equipment that has been illegally used or any bird, animal or fish unlawfully caught, taken, killed, had in possession or under control, shipped or about to be shipped. A court, upon receiving proof of probable cause for believing in the concealment of a bird, animal or fish so unlawfully caught, taken, killed, had in possession or under control, shipped or about to be shipped, shall issue a search warrant and cause a search to be made in any place, and to that end, may, after demand and refusal, cause any building, inclosure, or car to be entered, and any apartment, chest, box, locker, crate, basket, or package to be broken open and its contents examined by a member of the Fish and Game Council or any conservation police officer. All firearms, bows and arrows, shells or cartridges, fishing rods and reels, fishing lines, knives, lights, slingshots, traps, spears, spear guns, or any other article or equipment that has been illegally used and seized by a member of the council or any conservation police officer shall be returned to the defendant when and if the case has been dismissed, if he has been found not guilty, or if he has been convicted and has paid the penalty and costs imposed, if any.

The member of the council or conservation police officer shall not be liable for damages by reason of any such search or the seizure of any nets or fishing, hunting or trapping apparatus in accordance herewith.

15. Section 2 of P.L.2011, c.8 (C.32:20A-5.2) is amended to read as follows:

C.32:20A-5.2 Violations, penalties.

2. a. Any person who operates a boat on Greenwood Lake without a permit as required pursuant to subsection b. of section 1 of P.L.2009, c.310 (C.32:20A-5.1) shall be liable to a summons from the New Jersey State Police, the New Jersey State Park Police, a State

conservation police officer, or a sworn New Jersey law enforcement officer, and payment of up to a \$500 penalty per violation, which may be assessed in municipal court.

b. For any penalty collected pursuant to this section, 50 percent thereof shall be provided to the entity issuing the summons and 50 percent shall be deposited into the "Greenwood Lake Commission Fund" established pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2009, c.310 to be used only for the purposes of the fund established by law.

16. Section 2 of P.L.1977, c.85 (C.34:13A-15) is amended to read as follows:

C.34:13A-15 Definitions.

2. "Public fire department" means any department of a municipality, county, fire district, or the State or any agency thereof having employees engaged in firefighting provided that such firefighting employees are included in a negotiating unit exclusively comprised of firefighting employees.

"Public police department" means any police department or organization of a municipality, county or park, or the State, or any agency thereof having employees engaged in performing police services including but not necessarily limited to units composed of State troopers, police officers, detectives and investigators of counties, county parks and park commissions, grades of sheriff's officers and investigators; State motor vehicle officers, inspectors and investigators of the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, conservation police officers in the Division of Fish and Wildlife in the Department of Environmental Protection, State park police officers, marine patrolmen; correction officers, keepers, cottage officers, interstate escort officers, juvenile officers in the Department of Corrections and patrolmen of the Human Services and Corrections Departments; patrolmen of Capitol police and patrolmen of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission.

17. Section 3 of P.L.2017, c.93 (C.34:15-37.3) is amended to read as follows:

C.34:15-37.3 Certain injured officers to receive full compensation.

3. Any State Human Services police officer, State conservation police officer, State park police officer, Palisades Interstate Park officer appointed pursuant to R.S.32:14-21, or full-time campus police officer appointed by a county college or four-year public institution of higher education pursuant to P.L.1970, c.211 (C.18A:6-4.2 et seq.) who, while in the course of performing the officer's official duties, suffers serious bodily injury as the direct result of an assault during the arrest or transportation of a suspect or other person in the officer's custody shall continue to receive full wages for up to six months or until the officer begins receiving compensation for that injury under R.S.34:15-1 et seq., whichever comes first.

Any senior, recruit, or assistant supervising medical security officer working under the authority of the Department of Human Services who, in the course of performing the officer's official duties, suffers serious bodily injury as the direct result of an assault by a patient or resident who requires medical security shall continue to receive full wages for up to six months or until the officer begins receiving compensation for that injury under R.S.34:15-1 et seq., whichever comes first.

In addition to the compensation received under R.S.34:15-1 et seq., the injured officer shall receive regular supplemental payments from the officer's employer in an amount that is sufficient, when added to the compensation received under R.S.34:15-1 et seq., to equal the net wage of the injured officer at the time of the injury. The supplemental payments authorized under this section shall continue for up to six months so long as the injured officer remains a State Human Services police officer, State conservation police officer, State park

police officer, Palisades Interstate Park officer, campus police officer, or medical security officer and continues to be compensated under R.S.34:15-1 et seq.

The fringe benefits afforded an injured officer under the terms of a collective bargaining agreement, contract, or statute shall not be negated or impaired in any way and shall remain in full force and effect during the time that officer is receiving supplemental payments pursuant to this section.

18. Section 9 of P.L.1973, c.307 (C.39:3C-9) is amended to read as follows:

C.39:3C-9 Production of certificate.

9. a. Every person operating a snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, or dirt bike registered or transferred in accordance with any of the provisions of P.L.1973, c.307 (C.39:3C-1 et seq.) shall, upon demand of any law enforcement officer, duly authorized conservation police officer of the Division of Fish and Wildlife or park police officer or law enforcement operation officer of the Division of Parks and Forestry within the Department of Environmental Protection, or any other police officer, produce for inspection the certificate of registration and shall furnish to the officer any information necessary for the identification of the snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, or dirt bike and its owner. The failure to produce the certificate of registration when operating a snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, or dirt bike on public lands and waters, or when crossing a public highway, shall be presumptive evidence in any court of competent jurisdiction of operating a snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, or dirt bike which is not registered as required by P.L.1973, c.307 (C.39:3C-1 et seq.).

b. A person less than 18 years of age who operates a snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, or a dirt bike which is registered in this State shall produce upon demand a certificate indicating that person's successful completion of a safety education and training course established or certified by the commissioner in accordance with section 15 of P.L.1973, c.307 (C.39:3C-15). The failure to produce the certificate when operating a snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, or dirt bike on public lands or waters, or when crossing a public highway, shall be presumptive evidence in any court of competent jurisdiction of the operation of the snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, or dirt bike in violation of the requirement in subsection c. of section 16 of P.L.1973, c.307 (C.39:3C-16).

19. Section 27 of P.L.1973, c.307 (C.39:3C-27) is amended to read as follows:

C.39:3C-27 Law enforcement officers; duties.

27. Every law enforcement officer in the State, including any authorized officer of the commission, conservation police officers of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, and park police officers and law enforcement operation officers of the Division of Parks and Forestry within the Department of Environmental Protection, and other designated officers and employees of the department shall enforce P.L.1973, c.307 (C.39:3C-1 et seq.) within their respective jurisdictions.

20. Section 1 of P.L.1955, c.257 (C.43:15A-97) is amended to read as follows:

C.43:15A-97 "Law enforcement officer" definitions.

1. "Law enforcement officer" shall mean any permanent and full-time employee of the State of New Jersey holding one of the following titles: motor vehicles officer, motor vehicles sergeant, motor vehicles lieutenant, motor vehicles captain, assistant chief, bureau of enforcement, and chief, bureau of enforcement in the Division of Motor Vehicles, and

highway patrol officer, sergeant highway patrol bureau, lieutenant highway patrol bureau, captain highway patrol bureau, assistant chief highway patrol bureau, chief highway patrol bureau in the Division of State Police, and inspector, investigator, and administrative inspector in the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, and inspector recruit alcoholic beverage control, inspector alcoholic beverage control, senior inspector alcoholic beverage control, principal inspector alcoholic beverage control, supervising inspector alcoholic beverage control in the Division of State Police, and conservation police officer, assistant district conservation police officer and district conservation police officer in the Division of Fish and Wildlife in the Department of Environmental Protection, and assistant chief marine police and senior marine patrolman in the Division of Resource Development, and marine police officer, senior marine police officer, principal marine police officer in the Division of State Police, and inspector, officer, senior inspector, and principal inspector in the Division of Shell Fisheries, any permanent and full-time active county detective, lieutenant of county detectives, captain of county detectives, chief of county detectives, and county investigator in the offices of the county prosecutors, and sheriff's officer, sergeant sheriff's officer, lieutenant sheriff's officer, captain sheriff's officer, chief sheriff's officer, and sheriff's investigator in the offices of the county sheriffs, and any patrolman or other police officer of the Board of Commissioners of the Palisades Interstate Park appointed pursuant to R.S.32:14-21.

If the Prison Officers' Pension Fund is terminated as provided in section 10 hereof, "law enforcement officer" shall also mean any permanent and full-time active employee of the State of New Jersey holding the title of correction officer, correction sergeant, correction lieutenant, correction captain or deputy keeper in the Division of Correction and Parole, or any member of the Prison Officers' Pension Fund on the date of such termination.

21. To effectuate the purposes of P.L.2019, c.407, the Civil Service Commission shall establish and assign, and, where necessary, abolish, consolidate, or reassign, the ranks and titles currently governing the position of conservation officer to ranks and titles appropriate to the position of conservation police officer.

22. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month following the date of enactment, except the Civil Service Commission may take any anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for implementation of this act.

Approved January 21, 2020.