

# ASSEMBLY, No. 3623

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 8, 2013

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires halfway house employees to complete police training course.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning employees of halfway houses and  
2 supplementing chapter 17B of Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. Within 180 days of the effective date of this act, the  
8 Police Training Commission in the Division of Criminal Justice in  
9 the Department of Law and Public Safety, in consultation with the  
10 Commissioner of Corrections, shall develop a training course for  
11 persons employed by a residential community release program in  
12 this State. The course shall, at a minimum, provide comprehensive  
13 and consistent training in maintaining a safe and secure  
14 environment, preventing violence, protecting inmates and staff, and  
15 limiting escapes and absconding. Every employee of a residential  
16 community release program whose duties involve regular contact  
17 with inmates, including employees who provide drug treatment,  
18 education, job training, medical, and other services preparing  
19 inmates to return to society, shall be required to satisfactorily  
20 complete the course.

21 b. The training course developed by the commission pursuant  
22 to subsection a. of this section shall be offered at each school  
23 approved by the commission to provide police training courses  
24 pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1961, c.56 (C.52:17B-66 et seq.).  
25 The commission shall ensure that a person assigned to instruct the  
26 course is proficient and experienced in the administration of  
27 residential community release programs.

28 c. The commission shall approve a training course for persons  
29 employed by a residential community release program offered by an  
30 entity other than the commission if the requirements of that course  
31 are substantially equivalent to the requirements set forth for the  
32 training course established by the commission as required by  
33 subsection a. of this section.

34 d. The commission shall award a certificate to each person who  
35 successfully completes the course.

36 e. The Police Training Commission, in consultation with the  
37 Commissioner of Corrections, shall adopt rules and regulations  
38 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
39 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to implement the provisions of this section.

40

41 2. a. Following the development of the training course  
42 required by section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
43 Legislature as this bill) or 180 days following the effective date of  
44 this act, whichever occurs first, every person employed by a  
45 residential community release program shall satisfactorily complete  
46 the training within 90 days.

47 b. Following the development of the training course required  
48 by section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature

1 as this bill) or 180 days following the effective date of this act,  
2 whichever occurs first, any person hired by a residential community  
3 release program shall satisfactorily complete the training course  
4 prior to commencing employment at the facility.

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6 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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11 This bill would require employees in this State's residential  
12 community release programs, commonly referred to as halfway  
13 houses, to satisfactorily complete a training course developed by the  
14 Police Training Commission or a substantially equivalent course  
15 offered by another entity.

16 The training course must provide comprehensive and consistent  
17 training in maintaining a safe and secure environment, preventing  
18 violence, protecting inmates and staff, and limiting inmate escapes.  
19 Every employee of a residential community release program whose  
20 duties involve regular contact with inmates, including employees  
21 who provide drug treatment, education, job training, medical, and  
22 other services preparing inmates to return to society, would be  
23 required to take the course developed by the commission or a  
24 substantially equivalent course.

25 The Police Training Commission is required to develop the  
26 course within six months of the effective date of the bill. Once the  
27 course is developed, current halfway house employees would be  
28 required to complete the course within 90 days. Prospective  
29 employees would have to complete the course before commencing  
30 employment.