STATE OF NEW YORK

4707--B

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 11, 2025

Introduced by Sens. STAVISKY, BYNOE, COONEY, GALLIVAN, HARCKHAM, HINCHEY, JACKSON, SCARCELLA-SPANTON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Higher Education -- recommitted to the Committee on Higher Education in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, the criminal procedure law and the retirement and social security law, in relation to the geographic area of employment of state university police officers, centralization of the state university police, and hiring of state university police officers; and to repeal paragraph (d) of subdivision 34-a of section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law relating thereto

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds and declares that maintaining a safe environment for individuals studying on the campuses of the state university of New York is of critical importance, and that a well trained and well organized campus police force is vital to ensure that safety. The legislature also finds that the current structure of the campus police force at the state university is inefficient, subject to an excessive and unpredictable management salary structure, and does not ensure an equal level of security and protection at the many campuses across the state. The intent of this act is to create a system of police organization at the state university that borrows the lessons learned by other successful police forces, such as the New York state police, and creates a unified and clear rank and file and command structure that empowers individuals with law enforcement experience to make decisions based on current law enforcement best practices and in the best interest of public safety. The legislature

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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acknowledges the individual character and physical layout of each campus and finds that it is possible for a central police command to manage diverse campus needs.

§ 2. Paragraph l of subdivision 2 of section 355 of the education law, as amended by chapter 424 of the laws of 1998, is amended to read as follows:

l. To appoint **a commissioner of state university police who shall be a sworn member of the state** university police [~~officers who shall have the powers of police officers~~] and to remove such **commissioner of state university** police [~~officers~~] at pleasure; provided, however, that any person appointed [~~a~~] **as commissioner of state university** police [~~officer~~] must have satisfactorily completed or complete within one year of the date of [~~his~~] **such person's** appointment a course of law enforcement training approved by the municipal police training council [~~in consultation with the university. It shall be the duty of such police officers to preserve law and order on the campuses and other property of the university, including any portion of a public highway which crosses or abuts such property~~] **The state university of New York trustees shall appoint a commissioner of state university police who shall have the authority to appoint university police officers. The commissioner of state university police shall have the authority to appoint a university police officer to serve as the deputy commissioner of state university police; provided, however, the commissioner of state university police shall have no authority to appoint additional deputy commissioners. Provided further, all unclassified positions in the state university police shall remain in the unclassified service and no employee or position in the unclassified service shall be transferred, appointed or reclassified into the classified service or to a management confidential position. The collective bargaining unit membership status of all unclassified employees working in the state university of police shall be preserved and protected and the professional staff negotiating unit (PSNU) shall maintain exclusive representational rights of all employees in the unclassified service including those positions historically promoted from the state university police ranks. The commissioner of state university police shall have the authority to appoint university police officers. The commissioner of state university police shall have supervisory and administrative authority over all university police officers in the state of New York**.

[~~Subject to the approval of the chancellor, the president of each state-operated campus of the~~] **State university police may only operate off-campus pursuant to a written agreement between the commissioner of the** state university [~~shall~~] **police** [~~enter into a written agreement with~~] **and** adjoining law enforcement agencies establishing protocols for the exercise of authority by such university police [~~officer~~] **officers** off-campus, including **but not limited to** mutual aid [~~and~~]**,** assistance**, and off-campus events. Such written agreement may be amended as both parties agree**. Such written protocols shall not be deemed to supersede the authority of other police officers. The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any of the state institutions and property referred to in section five thousand seven hundred nine of this chapter.

§ 3. Paragraph (s) of subdivision 34 of section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law, as amended by section 13 of part BBB of chapter 59 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as follows:

(s) A [~~university police officer appointed by the state university pursuant to paragraph 1 of subdivision two of section three hundred fifty-five of the education law where such department or force is certi-~~

~~fied in accordance with paragraph (d) of subdivision one of section eight hundred forty-six-h of the executive law~~] **sworn member of the state university police**;

§ 4. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 34-a of section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law, as amended by chapter 428 of the laws of 1999, is amended to read as follows:

(a) [~~Except as provided in paragraph (d) of this subdivision,~~] New York state constitutes the "geographical area of employment" of any police officer employed as such by an agency of the state or by an authority which functions throughout the state, or a police officer designated by the superintendent of state police pursuant to section two hundred twenty-three of the executive law;

§ 5. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 34-a of section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law, as amended by chapter 424 of the laws of 1998, is amended to read as follows:

(a) [~~Except as provided in paragraph (d),~~] New York state constitutes the "geographical area of employment" of any police officer employed as such by an agency of the state or by an authority which functions throughout the state;

§ 6. Paragraph (d) of subdivision 34-a of section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law is REPEALED.

§ 7. Subparagraph 6 of paragraph (a) of subdivision 2 of section 211 of the retirement and social security law, as amended by chapter 753 of the laws of 1976, is amended to read as follows:

(6) the chancellor of state university if such person is to be employed in the unclassified service of the state university of New York, or in the professional service at the state colleges of agriculture, home economics, veterinary medicine or industrial and labor relations, the state agricultural experiment station at Geneva or any other institution or agency under the management and control of Cornell university as representative of the board of trustees of state university of New York, or at the state college of ceramics under the management and control of Alfred university as representative of the board of trustees of state university of New York or in the unclassified service of a community college other than those in the city of New York**, unless such person is to be employed as the commissioner of state university police or as a university police officer**; or

§ 8. This act shall take effect on the first of January next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law; provided, however, that the amendments to paragraph (a) of subdivision 34-a of section 1.20 of the criminal procedure law made by section four of this act shall be subject to the expiration and reversion of such paragraph pursuant to section 3 of chapter 428 of the laws of 1999, as amended, when upon such date the provisions of section five of this act shall take effect.