



NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

December 15, 2022

The Honorable Linda R. Greenstein
1249 South River Road, Suite 105
Cranbury, NJ 08512

The Honorable Louis D. Greenwald
1101 Laurel Oak Road, Suite 150
Voorhees, NJ 08043

Re: S2696 (Greenstein)/A1309 (Greenwald) – Requires law enforcement agency to provide copy of certain police reports to crime victims

Dear Senator Greenstein and Assemblyman Greenwald:

On behalf of the New Jersey State Bar Association, I convey our support for S2696/A1309 with one recommendation to clarify the reports that should be produced upon request. While it may seem obvious to some law enforcement agencies, the definition of a police report in one agency is not as straightforward as in another agency. With this clarification our members believe would make it easier for victims of crimes to access their police reports upon request and without cost.

We recommend adding language to clarify that for the purposes of this bill the police report is defined as “the initial incident report concerning or in connection with the crime against the victim.” This amendment would make it clear that victims of crimes are entitled to the initial police report concerning their own incident, rather than unintentionally opening access up to other reports that a person would otherwise not be entitled to.

This clarification would ensure that there is no inadvertent disclosure of information that should be properly excluded, such as subsequent investigative reports or other discovery that the prosecution may be entitled to withhold until later in the proceedings pursuant to New Jersey Rules of Court 3:13-3.

We thank you for your work on this bill and consideration of this amendment. I look forward to speaking with you on this matter. Please feel free to contact me at lchapland@njsba.com or 732-214-8510. On behalf of the NJSBA, thank you for your continued leadership.

Very truly yours,

Lisa Chapland

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cc: The Honorable Declan J. O'Scanlon
The Honorable Angela V. McKnight
The Honorable Sterley S. Stanley
The Honorable Ellen J. Park
The Honorable Herb Conaway
The Honorable Carol A. Murphy
Angela Sheck, NJSBA Executive Director
Jeralyn Lawrence, NJSBA President
Timothy McGoughran, NJSBA President-Elect