

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 4905**

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**221st LEGISLATURE**

---

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 1, 2025

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Senator RAJ MUKHERJI**

**District 32 (Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Revises statutory definition of certain waterfront workers.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on December 4, 2025, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/8/2025)**

1 AN ACT concerning waterfront workers and amending P.L.2017,  
2 c.324.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6  
7 1. Section 3 of P.L.2017, c.324 (C.53:2-8) is amended to read as  
8 follows:

9 3. As used in P.L.2017, c.324 (C.32:23-229 et al.):

10 "Career offender" means a person whose behavior is pursued in an  
11 occupational manner or context for the purpose of economic gain,  
12 utilizing methods that are deemed criminal violations against the laws  
13 of this State.

14 "Career offender cartel" means a number of career offenders acting  
15 in concert, and may include what is commonly referred to as an  
16 organized crime group.

17 "Carrier" means a carrier as that term is defined in 49 U.S.C.  
18 s.13102.

19 "Carrier of freight by water" means any person who may be  
20 engaged or who may hold himself or herself out as willing to be  
21 engaged, whether as a common carrier, a contract carrier, or otherwise,  
22 except for carriage of liquid cargoes in bulk in tank vessels designed  
23 for use exclusively in that service or carriage by barge of bulk cargoes  
24 consisting of only a single commodity loaded or carried without  
25 wrappers or containers and delivered by the carrier without  
26 transportation mark or count, in the carriage of freight by water  
27 between any point in the port of New York district, as applicable only  
28 within the State of New Jersey, and a point outside that district.

29 "Checker" means a longshoreman who is employed to engage in  
30 direct and immediate checking of waterborne freight or of the  
31 custodial accounting therefor or in the recording or tabulation of the  
32 hours worked at piers or other waterfront terminals by natural persons  
33 employed by carriers of freight by water or stevedores.

34 "Commission" means the waterfront commission of New York  
35 harbor established by the State of New Jersey pursuant to P.L.1953,  
36 c.202 (C.32:23-1 et seq.) and by the State of New York pursuant to its  
37 agreement thereto under P.L.1953, c.882 (NY Unconsol. Ch.307, s.1).

38 "Common carrier" means a common carrier as that term is defined  
39 in 46 U.S.C. s.40102.

40 "Compact" means the compact entered into by the State of New  
41 Jersey pursuant to its agreement thereto under P.L.1953, c.202  
42 (C.32:23-1 et seq.) and by the State of New York pursuant to its  
43 agreement thereto under P.L.1953, c.882 (NY Unconsol. Ch.307, s.1),  
44 as amended and supplemented.

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is  
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SLP committee amendments adopted December 4, 2025.

1 "Consignee" means the person designated on a bill of lading as the  
2 recipient of waterborne freight consigned for carriage by water.

3 "Container" means any receptacle, box, carton, or crate which is  
4 specifically designed and constructed so that it may be repeatedly used  
5 for the carriage of freight by a carrier of freight by water.

6 "Contract carrier" means a contract carrier as that term is defined  
7 in 49 U.S.C. s.13102.

8 "Director" means, in the context of licensure as a stevedore, a  
9 natural person elected or appointed to the board of directors that  
10 oversees or manages a stevedoring enterprise.

11 "Division" means the Division of State Police in the Department of  
12 Law and Public Safety.

13 "Freight" means freight which has been or will be, carried by, or  
14 consigned for carriage by a carrier of freight by water.

15 "Hiring agent" means any natural person who, on behalf of a  
16 carrier of freight by water **[or]**, a stevedore, **[shall]** or other employer  
17 of longshoremen, is authorized under law to designate or select any  
18 longshoreman for employment **[, and "hiring agent" includes any**  
19 natural person, who on behalf of any other person shall select any  
20 longshoreman for employment**]**.

21 "Immunity" means that a person shall not be prosecuted or  
22 subjected to any penalty or forfeiture for or on account of any  
23 transaction, matter, or thing concerning which, pursuant to an order of  
24 the division, the person gave answer or produced evidence, and that no  
25 answer given or evidence produced shall be received against the  
26 person upon any criminal proceeding.

27 "Labor organization" means and includes any organization which  
28 exists and is constituted for the purpose in whole or in part of  
29 collective bargaining, or of dealing with employers concerning  
30 grievances, terms and conditions of employment, or other mutual aid  
31 or protection, but "labor organization" shall not include a federation or  
32 congress of labor organizations organized on a national or  
33 international basis even though one of its constituent labor  
34 organizations may represent persons so registered or licensed.

35 "Longshoreman" means a natural person, other than a hiring agent,  
36 who is employed for work at a pier or other waterfront terminal, either  
37 by a carrier of freight by water or by a stevedore, to: a. physically  
38 move waterborne freight on vessels berthed at piers, on piers or at  
39 other waterfront terminals; b. engage in direct and immediate checking  
40 of any such freight or of the custodial accounting therefor or in the  
41 recording or tabulation of the hours worked at piers or other waterfront  
42 terminals by natural persons employed by carriers of freight by water  
43 or stevedores; c. supervise directly and immediately others who are  
44 employed as a longshoreman; d. physically to perform labor or  
45 services incidental to the movement of waterborne freight on vessels  
46 berthed at piers, on piers or at other waterfront terminals; e. physically  
47 move waterborne freight to or from a barge, lighter, or railroad car for  
48 transfer to or from a vessel of a carrier of freight by water which is,

1 shall be, or shall have been berthed at the same pier or other waterfront  
2 terminal; or f. perform labor or services involving, or incidental to, the  
3 movement of freight at a pier or other waterfront terminal.

4 "Longshoremen's register" means the register of eligible  
5 longshoremen compiled and maintained by the division pursuant to  
6 section 8 of P.L.2017, c.324 (C.53:2-13).

7 "Marine terminal" means an area which includes piers, which is  
8 used primarily for the moving, warehousing, distributing, or packing  
9 of waterborne freight or freight to or from piers and which is under  
10 common ownership or control with the pier.

11 "Officer" means, in the context of licensure as a stevedore, an  
12 officer or managing executive of a stevedore or a corporate stevedore  
13 who controls or participates in the operating management of a  
14 stevedoring enterprise.

15 "Other waterfront terminal" means any warehouse, depot, or other  
16 terminal, other than a pier, which is located within a marine terminal in  
17 the port of New York district and which is used for waterborne freight  
18 in whole or substantial part, and includes any warehouse, depot, or  
19 other terminal, other than a pier, whether enclosed or open, which is  
20 located in a marine terminal in the port of New York district, any part  
21 of which is used by any person to perform labor or services involving,  
22 or incidental to, the movement of waterborne freight or freight.

23 "Owner" means, in the context of licensure as a stevedore, a  
24 person, including but not limited to a partnership, joint venture,  
25 association, corporation, limited liability company, or any other legal  
26 entity, that beneficially owns or holds an ownership interest in a  
27 stevedoring enterprise.

28 "Partner" means an owner of an interest in a partnership, in  
29 whatever manner that owner and ownership interest are designated.

30 "Person" means not only a natural person but also any partnership,  
31 joint venture, association, corporation, or any other legal entity but  
32 shall not include the United States, any state or territory thereof, or any  
33 department, division, board, authority, or authority of one or more of  
34 the foregoing.

35 "Pier" means any wharf, pier, dock, or quay in regular use for the  
36 movement of waterborne freight between vessel and shore.

37 "Pier superintendent" means any natural person other than a  
38 longshoreman who is employed for work at a pier or other waterfront  
39 terminal by a carrier of freight by water or a stevedore and whose  
40 work at the pier or other waterfront terminal includes the supervision,  
41 directly or indirectly, of the work of longshoremen.

42 "Port of New York district" or "district" means the district created  
43 by Article II of the compact dated April 30, 1921, between the states  
44 of New York and New Jersey, authorized by chapter 154 of the laws of  
45 New York of 1921 and chapter 151 of the laws of New Jersey of 1921.

46 "Port watchman" means any watchman, gateman, roundsman,  
47 detective, guard, guardian, or protector of property employed by the  
48 operator of any pier or other waterfront terminal or by a carrier of

1 freight by water to perform services in that capacity on any pier or  
2 other waterfront terminal.

3 "Select any longshoreman for employment" means select a person  
4 for the commencement or continuation of employment as a  
5 longshoreman, or the denial or termination of employment as a  
6 longshoreman.

7 "Stevedore" or in the case of a corporate entity other than a natural  
8 person "corporate stevedore," means a contractor, not including an  
9 employee, engaged for compensation pursuant to a contract or  
10 arrangement with a carrier of freight by water, in moving waterborne  
11 freight carried or consigned for carriage by the carrier on vessels of the  
12 carrier berthed at piers, on piers at which the vessels are berthed or at  
13 other waterfront terminals. **["Stevedore"]** These terms shall also  
14 include:

15 a. a contractor engaged for compensation pursuant to a contract  
16 or arrangement with the United States, any state or territory thereof, or  
17 any department, division, board, commission, or authority of one or  
18 more of the foregoing, in moving freight carried or consigned for  
19 carriage between any point in the port of New York district and a point  
20 outside that district on vessels of the public agency berthed at piers, on  
21 piers at which their vessels are berthed or at other waterfront  
22 terminals;

23 b. a contractor, engaged for compensation pursuant to a contract  
24 or arrangement with any person to perform labor or services incidental  
25 to the movement of waterborne freight on vessels berthed at piers, on  
26 piers or at other waterfront terminals; or

27 c. a contractor engaged for compensation pursuant to a contract  
28 or arrangement with any other person to perform labor or services  
29 involving, or incidental to, the movement of freight into or out of  
30 containers, which have been or which will be carried by a carrier of  
31 freight by water, on vessels berthed at piers, on piers or at other  
32 waterfront terminals.

33 "State Treasurer" means the Treasurer of the State of New Jersey.

34 "Telecommunications system controller" means a natural person  
35 '[employed] selected' by 'a joint board of' the New York Shipping  
36 Association, Inc. and the International Longshoremen's Association  
37 '[, or by a joint board of those two entities,]' who participates in the  
38 operation of the Shipping Association of New York and New Jersey's  
39 Enterprise Management System (EMS).

40 "Terrorist group" means a group associated, affiliated, or funded in  
41 whole or in part by a terrorist organization designated by the United  
42 States Secretary of State in accordance with section 219 of the federal  
43 Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended from time to time, or  
44 any other organization which assists, funds, or engages in crimes or  
45 acts of terrorism as defined in the laws of the United States, or of this  
46 State.

47 "Transfer date" means the 90th day following the notification by  
48 the Governor pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2017, c.324 (C.32:23-230).

1 "Waterborne freight" means freight carried by or consigned for  
2 carriage by carriers of freight by water, and shall also include freight  
3 described in the definition of "stevedore" and in the definition of  
4 "other waterfront terminal." Provided, however, that at the point at  
5 which the freight is released from a pier or marine terminal to the  
6 possession of the consignee or the person designated by the consignee,  
7 the freight shall no longer be considered waterborne freight if:

8 a. the freight is not further transported by water; and

9 b. services involving or incidental to the unloading, storage,  
10 inspection, grading, repackaging, or processing of freight occur at a  
11 location outside a pier or marine terminal.

12 "Witness" means any person whose testimony is desired in any  
13 investigation, interview, or other proceeding conducted by the division  
14 under the authority granted pursuant to P.L.2017, c.324 (C.32:23-229  
15 et al.).

16 (cf: P.L.2017, c.324, s.3)

17  
18 2. Section 5 of P.L.2017, c.324 (C.53:2-10) is amended to read  
19 as follows:

20 5. In addition to the powers and duties elsewhere prescribed in  
21 law, the division shall have the power:

22 a. To determine the location, size, and suitability of  
23 accommodations necessary and desirable for the establishment and  
24 maintenance of the employment information centers provided in  
25 section 16 of P.L.2017, c.324 (C.53:2-21) and for administrative  
26 offices for the division;

27 b. To administer and enforce the provisions of P.L.2017, c.324  
28 (C.32:23-229 et al.);

29 c. Consistent with the provisions of the "Administrative  
30 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to adopt and  
31 enforce rules and regulations as the division may deem necessary to  
32 effectuate the purposes of P.L.2017, c.324 (C.32:23-229 et al.) or to  
33 prevent the circumvention or evasion thereof;

34 d. By its members and its properly designated officers, agents,  
35 and employees, with respect to the implementation and enforcement  
36 of P.L.2017, c.324 (C.32:23-229 et al.), to administer oaths and  
37 issue subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the  
38 giving of testimony and the production of other evidence;

39 e. To have for its properly designated officers, agents and  
40 employees, full and free access, ingress, and egress to and from all  
41 vessels, piers, and other waterfront terminals or other places in the  
42 port of New York district within this State, for the purposes of  
43 making inspection or enforcing the provisions of P.L.2017, c.324  
44 (C.32:23-229 et al.); and no person shall obstruct or in any way  
45 interfere with any officer, employee, or agent of the division in the  
46 making of an inspection, or in the enforcement of the provisions of  
47 P.L.2017, c.324 (C.32:23-229 et al.) or in the performance of any  
48 other power or duty under P.L.2017, c.324 (C.32:23-229 et al.);

1 f. To recover possession of any suspended or revoked license  
2 issued pursuant to sections 6, 7, and 13 of P.L.2017, c.324 (C.53:2-  
3 11, C.53:2-12, and C.53:2-18) within the port of New York district  
4 in this State;

5 g. To make investigations and collect and compile information  
6 concerning waterfront practices generally within the port of New  
7 York district in this State and upon all matters relating to the  
8 accomplishment of the objectives of P.L.2017, c.324 (C.32:23-229  
9 et al.);

10 h. To advise and consult with representatives of labor and  
11 industry and with public officials and agencies concerned with the  
12 effectuation of the purposes of P.L.2017, c.324 (C.32:23-229 et al.),  
13 upon all matters which the division may desire, including but not  
14 limited to, the form and substance of rules and regulations, the  
15 administration of the provisions of P.L.2017, c.324 (C.32:23-229 et  
16 al.), maintenance of the longshoremen's register, and issuance and  
17 revocation of licenses;

18 i. To make annual and other reports to the Governor and,  
19 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the  
20 Legislature containing recommendations for the improvement of the  
21 conditions of waterfront labor within the port of New York district  
22 in this State and for the effectuation of the purposes of P.L.2017,  
23 c.324 (C.32:23-229 et al.). The annual reports shall state the  
24 division's findings and determinations as to whether the public  
25 necessity still exists for: (1) the continued registration of  
26 longshoremen; (2) the continued licensing of any occupation or  
27 employment required to be licensed hereunder; and (3) the  
28 continued public operation of the employment information centers  
29 provided for in section 16 of P.L.2017, c.324 (C.53:2-21);

30 j. To co-operate with and receive from any department,  
31 division, bureau, board, commission, authority, or agency of this  
32 State, or of any county or municipality thereof, any assistance and  
33 data as will enable the division to properly to carry out its powers  
34 and duties hereunder; and to request a department, division, bureau,  
35 board, commission, authority, or agency, with the consent thereof,  
36 to execute the division's functions and powers, as the public interest  
37 may require; **[and]**

38 k. To exercise the powers and duties of the division as  
39 provided in P.L.2017, c.324 (C.32:23-229 et al.) to its officers,  
40 employees, and agents designated by the division;

41 l. To issue temporary permits and permit temporary  
42 registrations under such terms and conditions as the division may  
43 prescribe which shall be valid for a period to be fixed by the  
44 division not in excess of six months;

45 m. To require any applicant for a license or registration or any  
46 prospective licensee to furnish facts and evidence as the division  
47 may deem appropriate to enable it to ascertain whether the license  
48 or registration should be granted;

1       n. In any case in which the division has the power to revoke,  
2       cancel or suspend any license, the division shall also have the  
3       power to impose as an alternative to that revocation, cancellation, or  
4       suspension, a penalty, which the licensee may elect to pay the  
5       division in lieu of the revocation, cancellation, or suspension. The  
6       maximum penalty shall be \$5,000 for each separate offense. The  
7       division may, for good cause shown, abate all or part of the penalty;

8       o. To designate any officer, agent, or employee of the division  
9       to be an investigator who shall be vested with all the powers of a  
10      peace or police officer of the State of New Jersey;

11      p. To confer immunity, in the following manner prescribed by  
12      section 20 of P.L.2017, c.324 (C.53:2-25);

13      q. To require any applicant or renewal applicant for registration  
14      as a longshoreman, any applicant or renewal applicant for  
15      registration as a checker, or any applicant or renewal applicant for  
16      registration as a telecommunications system controller and any  
17      person who is sponsored for a license as a pier superintendent or  
18      hiring agent, any person who is an individual owner of an applicant  
19      or renewal applicant stevedore, or any persons who are individual  
20      partners of an applicant or renewal applicant stevedore, or any  
21      officers, directors, or stockholders owning five percent or more of  
22      any of the stock of an applicant or renewal applicant corporate  
23      stevedore or any applicant or renewal applicant for a license as a  
24      port watchman [or any other category of applicant or renewal  
25      applicant for registration or licensing within the division's  
26      jurisdiction] to be fingerprinted by the division at the cost and  
27      expense of the applicant or renewal applicant;

28      r. To exchange fingerprint data with and receive criminal  
29      history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
30      and the State Bureau of Identification for use in making the  
31      determinations required by this section; and

32      s. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule, or  
33      regulation to the contrary, to require any applicant for employment  
34      or employee of the division engaged in the implementation or  
35      enforcement of P.L.2017, c.324 (C.32:23-229 et al.) to be  
36      fingerprinted at the cost and expense of the applicant or employee  
37      and to exchange fingerprint data with and receive criminal history  
38      record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the  
39      State Bureau of Identification for use in the hiring or retention of  
40      those persons.

41      (cf: P.L.2017, c.324, s.5)

42  
43      3. This act shall take effect immediately.