

# *Bill S3507*

## *Session 2024 - 2025*



## SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 3507**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW  
JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 17, 2025

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3507.

As amended, this bill creates the offense of inciting a public brawl and upgrades the penalty for engaging in disorderly conduct under certain circumstances.

Under the bill, a person is guilty of inciting a public brawl if the person acts with purpose to organize or promote a group of four or more other persons to engage in a course of disorderly conduct through improper behavior or by causing a disturbance at a public gathering. Inciting a public brawl is a crime of the fourth degree if the person acts with purpose to disrupt or cause a disturbance at a public gathering or event or knowing that a disruption or disturbance is likely to occur; otherwise, it is a disorderly persons offense.

Additionally, the bill provides that a person who attempts to conceal or conceals the person's identity while engaging in a course of disorderly conduct, with the purpose to hinder prosecution or avoid apprehension, is guilty of a disorderly persons offense. The bill also establishes that a person commits disorderly conduct by acting with purpose to disrupt or cause a disturbance at a public gathering or event or engaging in behavior knowing that it will disrupt or cause a disturbance at a public gathering or event is guilty of a disorderly persons offense. Under current law, a person who engages in a course of disorderly conduct commits a petty disorderly persons offense.

A fourth degree crime is punishable by up to 18 months imprisonment, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both. A person who commits a fourth degree crime may be eligible for entry into a pretrial intervention program (PTI). The courts sets the conditions of PTI, which may include random drug screening, community service, mental health or substance abuse evaluations, and compliance with treatment recommendations. A disorderly persons offense is punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to six months, a fine of up to \$1,000, or both. A petty disorderly persons offense is punishable by imprisonment of up to 30 days, a fine of up to \$500, or both. In the case of citations issued for petty disorderly and disorderly persons offenses, appearance in court is mandatory.

As amended and reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3507 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4652, which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- (1) clarify that disorderly conduct includes causing a disturbance at a public gathering;
- (2) provide that a person commits disorderly conduct by engaging in behavior knowing that it will disrupt or cause a disturbance at a public gathering or event; and
- (3) make certain technical changes.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fiscal information for this bill is currently unavailable.

