

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO ASSEMBLY, No. 4618

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 11, 2023

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4618.

As amended by the committee, this bill creates an online job portal for behavioral health care workers and online internship and externship portal for students enrolled in both physical and behavioral health care training programs.

Under the bill as amended, the Department of Health (department) is to create, maintain, and update an online job portal that permits in-State employers to post job openings for behavioral health care workers. As amended, the bill defines “behavioral health care” to mean health care and associated services for the treatment of a mental illness, emotional disorder, or substance use disorder.

In addition, the department will be required to create, maintain, and update an online internship and externship portal that permits in-State employers to post internship and externship openings providing academic credits for students studying to become a health care professional.

The department will be authorized to contract with a third-party entity to develop and administer the online behavioral health job portal, the online internship and externship portal, or both.

As reported by the committee with amendments, Assembly Bill No. 4618 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3122, which was also reported by the committee on this date with amendments.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments move the definition from its own section to within the subsection to which it applies, and remove language providing that the term only applied to conditions of mild-to-moderate severity, and specifying that it did not include primary care or severe behavioral health conditions.

The committee amendments move the two provisions establishing the online portals into their own subsections to better distinguish

between the online job portal, which is for behavioral health workers, and the internship and externship portal, which is not limited to behavioral health.

The committee amendments add language reflecting that health care professionals may be licensed or certified.

The committee amendments add clarifying language to the provision authorizing the Department of Health to contract with a third-party entity to establish the online portals.