

ASSEMBLY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5625

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: NOVEMBER 30, 2023

The Assembly Human Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5625.

This bill amends section 1 of P.L.2023, c.25 (C.26:2G-39) to allow moneys received by the State as a result of the national opioid litigation resolution and deposited into the “Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund” to be used to support case management and recovery support services provided through the Support Team Addiction Recovery (STAR) and the Support Team Addiction Recovery (STAR) Jail Expansion programs.

A STAR program, administered by the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services in the Department of Human Services (DHS), provides case management and recovery support services to individuals with a substance use disorder. A STAR Jail Expansion program specifically provides case management and recovery support services to individuals with substance use disorders who were recently released from a State, county, or local correctional facility.

The bill allocates \$1,995,000 from the “Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund” to the DHS to supplement the federal funds appropriated to counties for STAR and STAR Jail expansion programs as follows: (1) \$1,715,000 to supplement existing federal grant monies appropriated to counties for STAR programs; (2) \$192,500 to establish a STAR Jail Expansion program in Passaic county; and (3) \$87,500 to provide for salaries and assumed salary increases for case managers and recovery support specialists hired by STAR and STAR Jail expansion programs.

The bill also stipulates the funds allocated from the “Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund” are not to replace or decrease the amount of existing federal grant monies appropriated to counties for the STAR and STAR Jail Expansion programs.