

ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2716

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 18, 2023

The Assembly Health Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2716 (1R).

This bill, as amended, requires the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services within the Department of Human Services (division), or a managed care organization that contracts with the division to provide medical services to beneficiaries of the NJ FamilyCare program, to accept, and reimburse, claims for services regarding two groups of behavioral health providers. Under both groups, the services are required to be rendered to a NJ FamilyCare beneficiary and covered under the NJ FamilyCare program.

The first group are those claims for services submitted by a clinical social worker, a professional counselor, or a marriage and family therapist. These claims are eligible for reimbursement provided that the provider holds a current, valid license issued pursuant to State law and is an approved NJ FamilyCare provider.

The second group are those claims for services provided by a social worker, an associate counselor, or an associate marriage and family therapist. These claims are eligible for reimbursement provided that:

- 1) the provider holds a current, valid license issued pursuant to State law;
- 2) the claim is submitted by a licensed clinical social worker, a licensed professional counselor, or a licensed marriage and family therapist who serves as the provider's supervising practitioner, as approved by the professional board that regulates the provider's license; and
- 3) the provider's supervising practitioner is an approved NJ FamilyCare provider.

The bill, as amended, also explicitly states that none of the bill's provisions are to be construed to allow a licensed social worker, licensed associate counselor, or licensed associate marriage and family therapist to practice within the scope of their license without a supervising practitioner or to require NJ FamilyCare to reimburse a

claim for covered services submitted by a licensed social worker, licensed associate counselor, or licensed associate marriage and family therapist.

As amended and reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 2716 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4153 , which was also amended and reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments make technical changes to correct typographical errors.