

ASSEMBLY, No. 3016

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CLINTON CALABRESE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblyman MICHAEL VENEZIA

District 34 (Essex)

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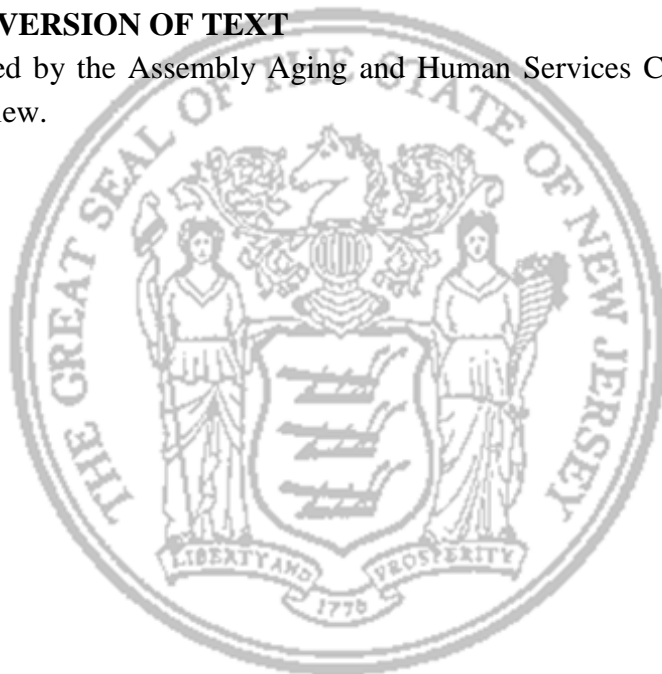
Assemblyman Scharfenberger, Assemblywoman Flynn, Assemblyman Sampson and Assemblywoman Quijano

SYNOPSIS

Allows follow up calls from operators of NJ Suicide Hopeline to minors at risk of committing suicide.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Aging and Human Services Committee with technical review.



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1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Suicide Hopeline, amending
2 P.L.1968, c.230, and supplementing Title 30 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

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

7
8 1. Section 1 of P.L.1968, c.230 (C.9:17A-4) is amended to read
9 as follows:

10 1. a. (1) The consent to the provision of medical or surgical
11 care or services or a forensic sexual assault examination by a
12 hospital or public clinic, or consent to the performance of medical
13 or surgical care or services or a forensic sexual assault examination
14 by a health care professional, when executed by a minor who is or
15 believes that he or she may have a sexually transmitted infection, or
16 who is at least 13 years of age and is or believes that he or she may
17 be infected with the human immunodeficiency virus or have
18 acquired immune deficiency syndrome, or by a minor who, in the
19 judgment of the treating health care professional, appears to have
20 been sexually assaulted, shall be valid and binding as if the minor
21 had achieved the age of majority. Any such consent shall not be
22 subject to later disaffirmance by reason of minority. In the case of
23 a minor who appears to have been sexually assaulted, the minor's
24 parents or guardian shall be notified immediately, unless the
25 treating healthcare professional believes that it is in the best
26 interests of the patient not to do so. Inability of the treating health
27 care professional, hospital, or clinic to locate or notify the parents
28 or guardian shall not preclude the provision of any emergency or
29 medical or surgical care to the minor or the performance of a
30 forensic sexual assault examination on the minor.

31 (2) As used in this subsection, "health care professional" means a
32 physician, physician assistant, nurse, or other health care
33 professional whose professional practice is regulated pursuant to
34 Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

35 b. When a minor believes that he or she is adversely affected
36 by a substance use disorder involving drugs or is a person with a
37 substance use disorder involving drugs as defined in section 2 of
38 P.L.1970, c.226 (C.24:21-2) or is adversely affected by an alcohol
39 use disorder or is a person with an alcohol use disorder as defined
40 in section 2 of P.L.1975, c.305 (C.26:2B-8), the minor's consent to
41 treatment under the supervision of a physician licensed to practice
42 medicine, or an individual licensed or certified to provide treatment
43 for an alcohol use disorder, or in a facility licensed by the State to
44 provide for the treatment of an alcohol use disorder, shall be valid
45 and binding as if the minor had achieved the age of majority.

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.

1 Any such consent shall not be subject to later disaffirmance by
2 reason of minority. Treatment for an alcohol use disorder or a
3 substance use disorder involving drugs that is consented to by a
4 minor shall be considered confidential information between the
5 physician, the treatment provider, or the treatment facility, as
6 appropriate, and the patient, and neither the minor nor the minor's
7 physician, treatment provider, or treatment facility, as appropriate,
8 shall be required to report such treatment when it is the result of
9 voluntary consent, except as may otherwise be required by law.

10 When a minor who is **【sixteen】** 16 years of age or older believes
11 that he or she is in need of behavioral health care services for the
12 treatment of mental illness or emotional disorders, the minor's
13 consent to temporary outpatient treatment, excluding the use or
14 administration of medication, under the supervision of a physician
15 licensed to practice medicine, an advanced practice nurse, or an
16 individual licensed to provide professional counseling under Title
17 45 of the Revised Statutes, including, but not limited to, a
18 psychiatrist, licensed practicing psychologist, certified social
19 worker, licensed clinical social worker, licensed social worker,
20 licensed marriage and family therapist, certified psychoanalyst, or
21 licensed psychologist, or in an outpatient health care facility
22 licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.), shall be
23 valid and binding as if the minor had achieved the age of majority.

24 When a minor who is 16 years of age or older believes that he or
25 she is in need of behavioral health care services for the treatment of
26 mental illness or emotional disorders and places a telephone call to
27 the New Jersey Suicide Hopeline for counseling and support, that
28 minor shall be allowed to consent to receive a follow-up call from
29 the operator of the hopeline who received and responded to the
30 minor's original call without parental consent or authorization in
31 accordance with the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
32 before the Legislature as this bill), and that consent shall be valid
33 and binding as if the minor had achieved the age of majority.

34 Any such consent shall not be subject to later disaffirmance by
35 reason of minority. Treatment for behavioral health care services
36 for mental illness or emotional disorders or receiving a follow-up
37 telephone call from an operator of the New Jersey Suicide Hopeline
38 pursuant to the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
39 the Legislature as this bill) that is consented to by a minor shall be
40 considered confidential information between the physician, the
41 individual licensed to provide professional counseling, the
42 advanced practice nurse, **【or】** the health care facility, or the
43 operator of the New Jersey Suicide Hopeline that places a follow-up
44 call, as appropriate, and the **【patient】** minor, and neither the minor
45 nor the minor's physician, professional counselor, nurse, **【or】**
46 outpatient health care facility, or the operator of the New Jersey
47 Suicide Hopeline, as appropriate, shall be required to report such

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1 treatment or telephone call when it is the result of voluntary
2 consent.

3 The consent of no other person or persons, including but not
4 limited to, a spouse, parent, custodian, or guardian, shall be
5 necessary in order to authorize a minor to receive such hospital
6 services, facility, or clinical care or services, medical or surgical
7 care or services, or counseling services from a physician licensed to
8 practice medicine, an individual licensed or certified to provide
9 treatment for an alcohol use disorder, an advanced practice nurse, or
10 an individual licensed to provide professional counseling under
11 Title 45 of the Revised Statutes, or for the minor to receive a
12 follow-up telephone call from an operator of the New Jersey
13 Suicide Hopeline pursuant to P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
14 the Legislature as this bill), as appropriate, except that behavioral
15 health care services for the treatment of mental illness or emotional
16 disorders shall be limited to temporary outpatient services only.

17 (cf: P.L.2017, c.131, s.7)

18

19 2. (New section) An operator of the New Jersey Suicide
20 Hopeline who receives and responds to a telephone call from a
21 minor who is 16 years of age or older for counseling and support
22 and the operator identifies as at a high risk of committing suicide
23 shall place follow-up calls to the minor, as appropriate, without the
24 necessity of obtaining parental consent or authorization pursuant to
25 subsection b. of section 1 of P.L.1968, c.238 (C.9:17A-4).

26

27 3. This act shall take effect immediately.