

ASSEMBLY, No. 2054

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

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District 37 (Bergen)

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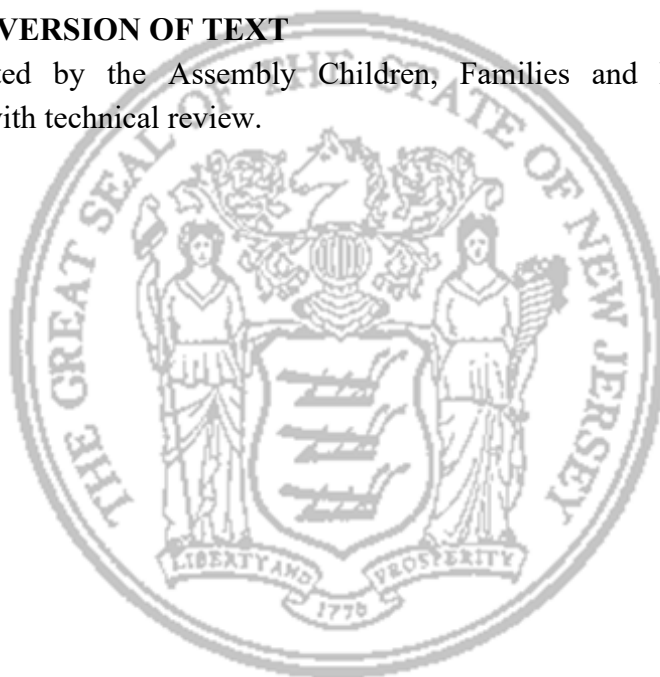
**Assemblyman Kanitra, Assemblywoman Dunn, Assemblyman Barlas,
Assemblywomen Speight, Peterpaul, Donlon, Bagolie, Reynolds-Jackson
and Carter**

SYNOPSIS

Requires Division of Children's System of Care to make changes to certain policies regarding the provision of family support and respite care services for certain eligible individuals.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Children, Families and Food Security Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/4/2026)

1 AN ACT concerning the Division of Children's System of Care and
2 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the
8 contrary, the Division of Children's System of Care in the
9 Department of Children and Families shall:

10 (1) establish an authorization period of 12 months for the
11 provision of family support services, including agency-hired,
12 agency-weekend respite, and self-hired respite care, to an individual
13 under the age of 21 with a developmental disability;

14 (2) once an individual under the age of 21 with a developmental
15 disability has been authorized to receive services from an agency
16 contracted with the division to provide family support services,
17 ensure that the family or guardian of the individual be provided
18 with a bank of respite care service hours, in addition to, and
19 separate from, any other family support service hours the
20 individual, the individual's family or guardian, or both are eligible
21 to receive, that can be used during each authorization period,
22 including, but not limited to, agency-hired, agency weekend,
23 agency-weekend respite, or self-hired respite care, based on the
24 specific needs of the individual, the individual's family or guardian,
25 or both; and

26 (3) establish a process by which the family or guardian of an
27 individual under the age of 21 with a developmental disability who
28 has been authorized to receive services from an agency contracted
29 with the Department of Children and Families to provide family
30 support services shall:

31 (a) undergo an annual reevaluation of the need for the family
32 support services received during the authorization period, the
33 frequency by which the services were accessed, and the success of
34 the outcomes achieved by the individual as a result of the provision
35 of such services;

36 (b) based on the results of the reevaluation, determine whether
37 the family or guardian of the individual is entitled to receive a bank
38 of respite care service hours, in addition to, and separate from, any
39 other family support service hours the individual, the individual's
40 family or guardian, or both are eligible to receive; and

41 (c) after the reevaluation, have the option to remain with the
42 agency that provided the family support services to the individual
43 during the prior authorization period.

44 b. Nothing in subsection a. of this section shall be construed to
45 allow the division to reduce the amount of respite care service hours
46 an individual under the age of 21 with a developmental disability,
47 the individual's family or guardian, or both have been authorized to
48 receive during a 12 month authorization period, including, but not

1 limited to, agency-hired, agency-weekend respite, or self-hired
2 respite care.

3 c. As used in this section:

4 “Agency-hired respite care” means respite care, including social
5 and recreational experiences, provided by a trained respite care
6 worker employed by an agency contracted with the Department of
7 Children and Families to an individual under the age of 21 with a
8 developmental disability in, or outside of, the individual’s home.

9 “Agency-weekend respite care” means social and recreational
10 experiences provided during the weekend by a trained respite care
11 worker employed by an agency contracted with the Department of
12 Children and Families to an individual under the age of 21 with a
13 developmental disability outside of the individual’s home.

14 “Self-hired respite care” means an arrangement that allows the
15 family or guardian of an individual under the age of 21 with a
16 developmental disability to recruit and hire a trained respite care
17 worker, paid directly by individual’s family or guardian, to provide
18 social and recreational experiences to the individual in, or outside
19 of, the individual’s home.

20

21 2. The Department of Children and Families shall promulgate
22 rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure
23 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) as may be necessary to
24 effectuate the purposes of this act.

25

26 3. This act shall take effect immediately.