

ASSEMBLY OVERSIGHT, REFORM AND FEDERAL
RELATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2735

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 12, 2026

The Assembly Oversight, Reform and Federal Relations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2735.

As reported by the committee, this bill requires the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Department of Health to conduct a study on the causes, prevention, and reduction of disordered eating in New Jersey. Within 18 months following the bill's effective date, the Commissioner of Human Services and the Commissioner of Health are to prepare and submit a report containing the study's findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature.

The study is to include: (1) determining key information about disordered eating, including risk factors and preventing factors; (2) identifying gaps in treatment for disordered eating; (3) evaluating prevention strategies, including dismantling discrimination and bias with regard to weight; and (4) making recommendations to facilitate public outreach, and increase awareness regarding disordered eating prevention, with a focus on impacted communities, such as youth, older residents, people of color, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals.

The division may: (1) contract with a third party to conduct focus groups, interview key individuals, conduct surveys, and establish a collaborative group to discuss key issues regarding disordered eating prevention; (2) partner with the Department of Education to inform teachers, administrators, school staff, students, and parents on disordered eating prevention; and (3) seek, accept, and expend gifts, grants, or donations from private or public sources.

The bill establishes a three-year Disordered Eating Prevention Research Grant Pilot Program within the division. This grant program is to provide financial assistance to eligible applicants to conduct research on or research related to barriers to and gaps within the treatment of disordered eating; the root causes of disordered eating; and the risk factors and protective factors for disordered eating in youth, adults, and older residents.

Under the bill, the division is to submit to the Governor and to the Legislature a report that summarizes the following information

regarding the administration of the Disordered Eating Prevention Research Grant Pilot Program: the number of grant recipients; the amount of each grant award to each grant recipient; and a summary of each grant recipient's written report.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2026-2027 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.