

ASSEMBLY, No. 2772

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

Sponsored by:

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SYNOPSIS

Requires Division of Child Protection and Permanency to develop suicide screening and crisis response training for caseworkers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

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



1 AN ACT requiring Division of Child Protection and Permanency to
2 develop a suicide screening and crisis response training for
3 caseworkers and supplementing Title 9 of the Revised Statutes.

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

7
8 1. As used in this act:

9 “Caseworker” means an employee of the Department of Children
10 and Families, Division of Child Protection and Permanency, whose
11 duties shall include, but not be limited to, investigating allegations
12 of child abuse or neglect, conducting home visits and assessments,
13 developing and monitoring case plans, arranging and supervising
14 placements, coordinating services with families and providers, and
15 supporting permanency and adoption outcomes.

16 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Children and
17 Families.

18 “Division” means the Division of Child Protection and
19 Permanency.

20
21 2. a. The Division of Child Protection and Permanency shall
22 develop and adopt a training course and curriculum on suicide
23 screening and crisis response planning education for the Division of
24 Child Protection and Permanency caseworkers on:

25 (1) recognizing warning signs, risk factors, and protective factors
26 for suicide in children and adolescents through hands-on use of
27 validated suicide prevention tools such as the Columbia Suicide
28 Severity Rating Scale;

29 (2) establishing protocols for responding when a child is
30 identified as at risk, including immediate de-escalation techniques;
31 and

32 (3) coordinating care with mental health professionals, schools,
33 resource parents, and community supports.

34 b. The division shall ensure that:

35 (1) the training course is part of each Division of Child
36 Protection and Permanency caseworker’s initial training and,
37 biennially, as part of the in-service training provided to each
38 caseworker, as appropriate; and

39 (2) every caseworker hired by the division prior to the effective
40 date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
41 bill) shall, within 24 months of the effective date of
42 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
43 satisfactorily complete the training course developed and adopted
44 pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

45 c. The Division shall periodically review the training course and
46 curriculum established pursuant to this act, and shall update the
47 course and curriculum as necessary to ensure their continued
48 effectiveness and relevance.

1 3. The Commissioner of the Department of Children and
2 Families may adopt rules and regulations, in accordance with the
3 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
4 seq.), if necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act.

5
6 4. This act shall take effect on the 180th day following
7 enactment, except that the Commissioner may take such
8 anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary
9 for the implementation of the act.