

SENATE, No. 1276

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators McKnight and O'Scanlon

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of Violence and Escalation (ARRIVE) Together Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee with technical review.



1 **AN ACT** establishing the Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances
2 of Violence and Escalation (ARRIVE) Together Program and
3 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes and Title 2A of
4 the New Jersey Statutes.

5

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

8

9 1. a. The Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of
10 Violence and Escalation Together Program, known as the ARRIVE
11 Together Program, is established in the Department of Law and
12 Public Safety. The purpose of the program shall be to provide a
13 coordinated response to individuals who are experiencing a mental
14 health or substance use crisis and engaging with law enforcement.

15 b. The Attorney General shall develop guidelines for a mental
16 health services provider or a mental health services agency to
17 contract with a law enforcement agency to respond to a request for
18 assistance involving a person alleged, reported, or suspected to be
19 experiencing a mental health crisis or substance use crisis. The
20 guidelines shall provide that mental health services are available on
21 an as-needed basis for up to 24 hours per day and up to seven days
22 per week.

23 c. A law enforcement agency eligible to participate in the
24 ARRIVE Together Program shall include the Division of State
25 Police, a department or force established pursuant to N.J.S.40A:14-
26 106 or N.J.S.40A:14-118, or any other law enforcement agency the
27 Attorney General deems appropriate.

28 d. (1) A law enforcement agency that chooses to participate in
29 the ARRIVE Together Program shall designate at least one
30 individual as the crisis response support coordinator to develop and
31 implement the agency's procedures to comply with guidance issued
32 by the Attorney General.

33 (2) Each county prosecutor shall designate a county crisis
34 response support coordinator to develop and implement procedures
35 for the county to comply with guidance issued by the Attorney
36 General. The county crisis support coordinator also shall
37 coordinate with the Attorney General, or a designee, to provide
38 documentation or information as required by the Attorney General.

39

40 2. a. As used in this section, "personal identifying
41 information" means information pertaining to the assessment,
42 diagnosis, treatment, or health status of an individual, including but
43 not limited to, an individual's name or identity; whether the
44 individual is the subject of an emergency call or other report;
45 whether the individual is alleged to be or suspected of experiencing
46 a mental health crisis or substance use crisis or other emergency,
47 incident, or distress; and whether the individual is receiving an

1 assessment for crisis intervention, a mental health screening, or
2 other support services through the ARRIVE Together Program.

3 b. Personal identifying information obtained as the result of an
4 ARRIVE Together Program response is confidential and shall not
5 be disclosed except upon express consent of the individual, as
6 determined necessary by the Attorney General to implement the
7 provisions of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
8 as this bill), or as otherwise required by court order or law.

9 c. Notwithstanding any law or Attorney General guidance to
10 the contrary, information and records created by a law enforcement
11 agency solely as the result of the ARRIVE Together Program or
12 maintained by the Department of Law and Public Safety for the
13 ARRIVE Together Program shall be considered confidential and
14 shall not be disclosed to the public or considered a government
15 record pursuant to P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.).
16

17 3. A licensed mental health services provider or mental health
18 services agency contracted to provide crisis response services to the
19 Division of State Police or a police department or force pursuant to
20 P.L.2022, c.36, P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature
21 as this bill), or a substantially similar program, shall not be liable
22 for any civil damages as a result of any acts or omissions
23 undertaken in good faith in rendering care at the scene of a crisis or
24 emergency to any victim thereof, or in transporting any victim to a
25 hospital or other facility where treatment or care is to be rendered,
26 or for any follow up care provided; except that nothing in this
27 section shall exonerate a licensed mental health provider for gross
28 negligence.
29

30 4. The Attorney General, pursuant to the “Administrative
31 Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), may adopt
32 rules and regulations to effectuate the provisions of this act.
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34 5. This act shall take effect immediately.