

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2607**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**213th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 2008

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman JERRY GREEN**

**District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.**

**District 7 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblyman ALBERT COUTINHO**

**District 29 (Essex and Union)**

**Assemblywoman L. GRACE SPENCER**

**District 29 (Essex and Union)**

**Assemblyman ANTHONY CHIAPPONE**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

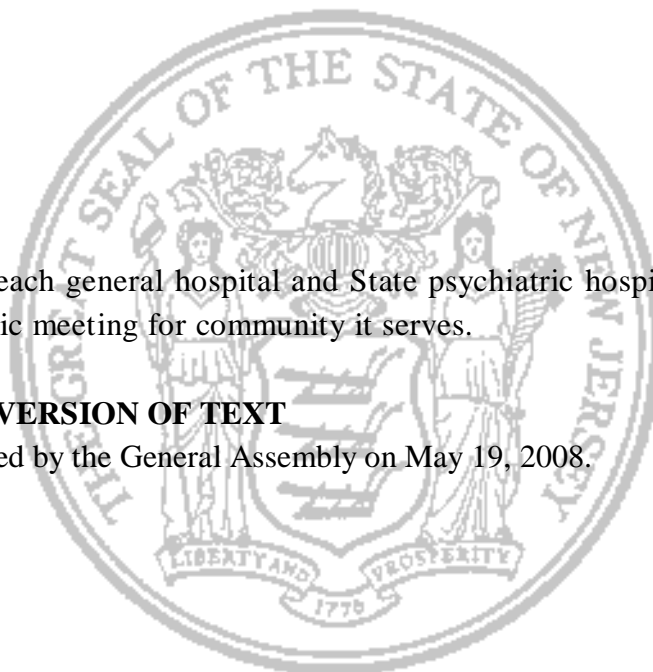
**Assemblywomen Greenstein, Oliver, Angelini, Assemblyman Giblin,  
Assemblywoman Love, Assemblyman Schaer, Senators Redd, Allen and  
Vitale**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires each general hospital and State psychiatric hospital to annually conduct public meeting for community it serves.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As amended by the General Assembly on May 19, 2008.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2008)**

1 AN ACT concerning general hospitals <sup>1</sup>and State psychiatric  
2 hospitals<sup>1</sup> and supplementing P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.)  
3 and Title 30 of the Revised Statutes<sup>1</sup>.

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

7  
8 1. A general hospital licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136  
9 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) shall, at least annually, conduct a public  
10 meeting to discuss issues relating to the operation of the hospital  
11 and concerns of the community with respect to the delivery of  
12 services at the hospital.

13 The hospital shall ensure that:

14 a. at a minimum, the chief executive officer of the hospital, the  
15 chairman of the hospital board of trustees, and at least 25% of the  
16 members of the hospital board of trustees are present at the meeting  
17 and available to respond to questions from members of the public;

18 b. the meeting is open to members of the public and organized  
19 so as to provide the community served by the hospital with  
20 information about the operation of the hospital, and to provide an  
21 opportunity for members of the public to ask questions and raise  
22 issues of concern to them; and

23 c. public notice of the meeting is provided:

24 (1) at least 14 days prior to the date of the meeting by posting  
25 written notice in the hospital in a conspicuous location that is  
26 available to the public, and by publishing the notice in a daily or  
27 weekly newspaper of general circulation in the service area of the  
28 hospital; and

29 (2) at least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting by posting  
30 notice on the hospital's Internet website.

31 d. notice of the meeting is provided to the Department of  
32 Health and Senior Services at least 30 days prior to the date of the  
33 meeting.

34  
35 2. The Department of Health and Senior Services shall post the  
36 notice of a hospital's annual public meeting on the department's  
37 website.

38  
39 <sup>1</sup>3. Each State psychiatric hospital shall, at least annually,  
40 conduct a public meeting to discuss issues relating to the operation  
41 of the hospital and concerns of the community with respect to the  
42 delivery of services at the hospital.

43 a. The hospital shall ensure that:

**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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly floor amendments adopted May 19, 2008.

1       (1) the meeting is conducted in accordance with the provisions  
2 of the "Senator Byron M. Baer Open Public Meetings Act,"  
3 P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-6 et seq.);

4       (2) at a minimum, the chief executive officer of the hospital or  
5 his designee, the chairman of the hospital board of trustees, the  
6 Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Mental Health Services  
7 in the Department of Human Services or his designee, and at least  
8 25% of the members of the hospital board of trustees are present at  
9 the meeting and available to respond to questions from members of  
10 the public;

11       (3) the meeting is open to members of the public and organized  
12 so as to provide the community served by the hospital with  
13 information about the operation of the hospital, and to provide an  
14 opportunity for members of the public to ask questions and raise  
15 issues of concern to them; and

16       (4) public notice of the meeting is provided in accordance with  
17 the provisions of this subsection, which shall be deemed to comply  
18 with the notice requirements of P.L.1975, c.231, at least 14 days  
19 prior to the date of the meeting by posting written notice in the  
20 hospital in a conspicuous location that is available to the public, and  
21 by publishing the notice in a daily or weekly newspaper of general  
22 circulation in the service area of the hospital.

23       b. The Department of Human Services shall post the notice of  
24 the hospital's annual public meeting on the department website at  
25 least 30 days prior to the date of the meeting.<sup>1</sup>

26

27       <sup>1</sup>[3.] 4. This act shall take effect on the 60th day following the  
28 date of enactment.