

P.L. 2019, CHAPTER 421, *approved January 21, 2020*

Senate, No. 3117 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning emergency departments and palliative care and  
2 supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. <sup>2</sup>a.<sup>2</sup> The emergency department of a general hospital licensed  
8 pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) shall develop and  
9 implement a plan to integrate the provision of palliative care services  
10 for patients treated in the emergency department for whom palliative  
11 care is appropriate. The plan shall include <sup>1</sup>:

12 <sup>2</sup>**[a. <sup>1</sup> ] (1)**<sup>2</sup> the adoption of a standardized screening tool <sup>2</sup>, as  
13 recommended by the Department of Health,<sup>2</sup> for use by health care  
14 professionals in the emergency department to facilitate the  
15 identification of patients who present to the emergency department for  
16 acute symptom management, pain relief, or otherwise, who would  
17 benefit from palliative care services <sup>1</sup>**[**. The plan shall also include**]**:

18 <sup>2</sup>**[b. <sup>1</sup> ] (2)**<sup>2</sup> the provision of patient-centered information <sup>2</sup>, as  
19 developed by the Department of Health,<sup>2</sup> concerning the benefits of  
20 palliative care, the conditions, diagnoses, and disease stage for which  
21 palliative care is generally appropriate, and referrals to providers of  
22 outpatient palliative care services, when appropriate <sup>1</sup> **[**.The plan shall  
23 include**]**; and

24 <sup>2</sup>**[c. <sup>1</sup> ] (3)**<sup>2</sup> consideration of the unique needs of patients with  
25 intellectual or developmental disabilities <sup>1</sup>**[,**<sup>1</sup> or behavioral health  
26 issues who present to the emergency department and for whom  
27 palliative care may be indicated.

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29 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh  
30 month next following enactment <sup>2</sup>, except that the Commissioner of  
31 Health may take such anticipatory administrative action in advance  
32 thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act<sup>2</sup>.

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36 Requires emergency departments to take certain measures  
37 concerning palliative care for patients.

**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>Senate SHH committee amendments adopted February 7, 2019.

<sup>2</sup>Assembly AHE committee amendments adopted December 5, 2019.