

ASSEMBLY, No. 268

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN ARMATO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblyman VINCENT MAZZEO

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttie, Assemblyman Houghtaling,
Assemblywoman Dunn and Assemblyman Johnson**

SYNOPSIS

Bars use of certain funds and nondisclosure agreements to settle sexual assault and harassment claims against certain State officers and employees, members of Legislature, and candidates.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/22/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the use of public funds, campaign funds, and
 2 nondisclosure agreements to settle sexual assault and harassment
 3 claims against certain State officers and employees, members of
 4 the Legislature and candidates, amending P.L.1993, c.65 and
 5 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

9
 10 1. (New Section) a. As used in this section:
 11 "member of the Legislature" means any person elected to serve
 12 in the General Assembly or the Senate of this State;
 13 "nondisclosure agreement" means an agreement in which the
 14 parties agree not to disclose the terms of any settlement, including a
 15 monetary settlement, entered into to settle allegations of sexual
 16 assault or sexual harassment;
 17 "sexual assault" means an act committed under circumstances or
 18 conditions set forth in chapter 14 of Title 2C of the New Jersey
 19 Statutes, including sexual contact;
 20 "sexual harassment" means any solicitation of any sexual act,
 21 physical advances, or verbal or non-verbal conduct that is sexual in
 22 nature and that either: is unwelcome, offensive to a reasonable
 23 person, or creates a hostile workplace environment, and the State
 24 officer or employee or special State officer or employee, or member
 25 of the Legislature knows, should know, or is told this; or is
 26 sufficiently severe or intense to be abusive to a reasonable person in
 27 that context. "Sexual harassment" may consist of a single extreme
 28 or severe act or of multiple acts and may include, but is not limited
 29 to, conduct with another person whether or not such person is in a
 30 subordinate position to the State officer or employee, special State
 31 officer or employee, or member of the Legislature. "Sexual
 32 harassment" may also include conduct of a nonsexual nature if it is
 33 based on the sex of an individual;
 34 "special State officer or employee" means any person holding an
 35 office or employment in a State agency, excluding an interstate
 36 agency, for which office or employment no compensation is
 37 authorized or provided by law, or no compensation other than a sum
 38 in reimbursement of expenses, whether payable per diem or per
 39 annum, is authorized or provided by law; or any person, not a
 40 member of the Legislature, holding a part-time elective or
 41 appointive office or employment in a State agency, excluding an
 42 interstate agency;
 43 "State agency" means any of the principal departments in the
 44 Executive Branch of the State Government, and any division, board,
 45 bureau, office, commission, or other instrumentality within or

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.

1 created by such department, the Legislature of the State and any
2 office, board, bureau or commission within or created by the
3 Legislative Branch, and any independent State authority,
4 commission, instrumentality, or agency; and

5 "State officer or employee" means any person, other than a
6 special State officer or employee holding an office or employment
7 in a State agency, excluding an interstate agency, other than a
8 member of the Legislature.

9 b. A State agency shall not:

10 (1) use public funds to make a payment to a person in settlement
11 of a claim that the person was the victim of sexual assault or sexual
12 harassment by a State officer or employee, or a special State officer
13 or employee, or a member of the Legislature, either prior to the
14 filing of a lawsuit by that person or at any time after a lawsuit is
15 filed; or

16 (2) enter into a nondisclosure agreement with any person to
17 settle a claim that the person was the victim of sexual assault or
18 sexual harassment by a State officer or employee, or a special State
19 officer or employee, or a member of the Legislature, either prior to
20 the filing of a lawsuit by that person or at any time after a lawsuit is
21 filed.

22

23 2. Section 17 of P.L.1993, c.65 (C.19:44A-11.2) is amended to
24 read as follows:

25 17. a. All contributions received by a candidate, candidate
26 committee, a joint candidates committee or a legislative leadership
27 committee shall be used only for the following purposes:

28 (1) the payment of campaign expenses;

29 (2) contributions to any charitable organization described in
30 section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended or
31 modified, or nonprofit organization which is exempt from taxation
32 under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, except
33 any charitable organization of which the candidate or a member of
34 the candidate's immediate family is a paid officer, director or
35 employee or receives compensation for goods or services provided
36 to the organization;

37 (3) transmittal to another candidate, candidate committee, or
38 joint candidates committee, or to a political committee, continuing
39 political committee, legislative leadership committee or political
40 party committee, for the lawful use by such other candidate or
41 committee;

42 (4) the payment of the overhead and administrative expenses
43 related to the operation of the candidate committee or joint
44 candidates committee of a candidate or a legislative leadership
45 committee;

46 (5) the pro rata repayment of contributors; or

47 (6) the payment of ordinary and necessary expenses of holding
48 public office.

1 As used in this subsection, "campaign expenses" means any
2 expense incurred or expenditure made by a candidate, candidate
3 committee, joint candidates committee or legislative leadership
4 committee for the purpose of paying for or leasing items or services
5 used in connection with an election campaign, other than those
6 items or services which may reasonably be considered to be for the
7 personal use of the candidate, any person associated with the
8 candidate or any of the members of a legislative leadership
9 committee; and "member of the candidate's immediate family"
10 means the candidate's spouse, child, parent, or sibling, and the
11 child, parent, or sibling of the candidate's spouse.

12 b. No contribution received by a candidate or by the candidate
13 committee or joint candidates committee of a candidate may be
14 used;

15 (1) for the payment of the expenses arising from the furnishing,
16 staffing or operation of an office used in connection with that
17 person's official duties as an elected public official; or

18 (2) to make a payment to a person in settlement of a claim that
19 the person was the victim of sexual assault or sexual harassment by
20 a candidate or an employee of a candidate, prior to the filing of a
21 lawsuit by that person or at any time after a lawsuit is filed.

22 c. Any funds remaining in the campaign depository of a
23 candidate's candidate committee or joint candidates committee upon
24 the death of the candidate shall be used only for one or more of the
25 purposes established in subsection a. of this section by the
26 committee's organizational treasurer or deputy treasurer or whoever
27 has control of the depository upon the death of the candidate.

28 (cf: P.L.2007, c.202, s.1)

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30 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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35 This bill prohibits a State agency in the Executive or Legislative
36 Branch of State government from using public funds as payment in
37 a settlement of a claim that a person was the victim of sexual
38 assault or sexual harassment by a State officer or employee, or a
39 special State officer or employee, or a member of the Legislature,
40 either prior to the filing of a lawsuit by that person or at any time
41 after a lawsuit is filed.

42 The bill also prohibits the use of campaign funds to make a
43 payment to a person in settlement of a claim that the person was the
44 victim of sexual assault or sexual harassment by a candidate or an
45 employee of a candidate, either prior to the filing of a lawsuit by
46 that person or at any time after a lawsuit is filed.

47 In addition, the bill prohibits a State agency from entering into a
48 nondisclosure agreement, in which the parties agree not to disclose

1 the terms of a settlement, with any person to settle a claim that the
2 person was a victim of sexual assault or sexual harassment by a
3 State officer or employee or a special State officer or employee, or
4 a member of the Legislature, either prior to the filing of a lawsuit
5 by that person or at any time after a lawsuit is filed.