

ASSEMBLY, No. 813

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Chaparro

SYNOPSIS

Establishes prisoner reentry peer support hotline.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/5/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning a prisoner reentry peer support hotline and
2 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. The Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation
9 with the Commissioners of Corrections and Health, the Executive
10 Director of the Juvenile Justice Commission, and the Chairman of
11 the State Parole Board shall establish and maintain on a 24-hour
12 daily basis a prisoner reentry support toll-free telephone hotline
13 service, operating through one of the existing telephone hotline
14 services of the department. The hotline shall receive and respond to
15 calls from formerly incarcerated persons who seek support in
16 reentry following release from custody.

17 b. The operators of the hotline shall be peer recovery specialists,
18 certified by the Addiction Professionals Certification Board of New
19 Jersey, or peer recovery support specialists, certified by the
20 Association for Addiction Professionals. The operators shall receive
21 any further training as determined to be necessary by the
22 Commissioner of Human services to carry out the purpose set forth
23 in subsection a. of this section.

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25 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
26 next following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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31 This bill establishes a toll-free hotline for peer-based prisoner
32 reentry support. The bill requires the Commissioner of Human
33 Services, in consultation with the Commissioners of Corrections
34 and Health, the Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice
35 Commission, and the Chairman of the State Parole Board to
36 establish and maintain on a 24-hour daily basis a prisoner reentry
37 support toll-free telephone hotline service, operating through one of
38 the existing telephone hotline services of the department. Under the
39 bill, the hotline will receive and respond to calls from formerly
40 incarcerated persons seeking support in reentry following release
41 from custody.

42 The bill provides that the hotline operators are required to be
43 peer recovery specialists, certified by the Addiction Professionals
44 Certification Board of New Jersey, or national certified peer
45 recovery support specialists, certified by the Association for
46 Addiction Professionals. The operators would receive any further
47 training as determined to be necessary by the Commissioner of
48 Human services, to carry out the purpose of the bill.