

ASSEMBLY, No. 1021

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Tucker

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHS to study emergency response services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning individuals with developmental disabilities.

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

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6 1. a. The Commissioner of Human Services shall commission
7 a study of emergency response services regarding individuals with
8 developmental disabilities. The study shall include, but shall not be
9 limited to:

10 (1) reviewing relevant calls, as determined by the Commissioner
11 of Human Services, to 911 and county mental health agencies
12 originating from a facility that treats individuals with
13 developmental disabilities, the residence of an individual with a
14 developmental disability, or the school attended by an individual
15 with a developmental disability, as well as the emergency responses
16 thereto;

17 (2) determining the percentage of such calls that resulted in the
18 removal of an individual from a facility within seven days of the
19 call, including where the removed individual was relocated, whether
20 the individual returned to the facility from which the individual was
21 removed, and any resultant plan of care administered to the
22 removed individual; and

23 (3) determining a uniform procedure to provide appropriate
24 emergency response services to individuals with developmental
25 disabilities to ensure that contracted community service providers
26 are capable of providing appropriate community services, and to
27 ensure that State resources to individuals with developmental
28 disabilities are being properly utilized in the provision of
29 emergency response services to individuals with developmental
30 disabilities.

31 b. The Commissioner of Human Services shall report findings
32 and recommendations made pursuant to this section to the
33 Governor, and to the Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991,
34 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) within one year of the effective date of this
35 act.

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37 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
38 submission of the Commissioner's report pursuant to section 1 of
39 this act.

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STATEMENT

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44 This bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services
45 (commissioner) to study emergency response for individuals with
46 developmental disabilities.

47 Under the bill, the study is to include, but is not to be limited to:

48 (1) reviewing relevant calls, as determined by the commissioner, to

1 911 and county mental health agencies originating from a facility
2 that treats individuals with developmental disabilities, the residence
3 of an individual with a developmental disability, or the school
4 attended by an individual with a developmental disability, as well
5 as the emergency responses thereto (2) determining the percentage
6 of such calls that resulted in the removal of an individual from a
7 facility within seven days of the call, including where the removed
8 individual was relocated, whether the individual returned to the
9 facility from which the individual was removed, and any resultant
10 plan of care administered to the removed individual; and (3)
11 determining a uniform procedure to provide appropriate emergency
12 response services to individuals with developmental disabilities to
13 ensure that contracted community service providers are capable of
14 providing appropriate community services, and to ensure that State
15 resources to individuals with developmental disabilities are being
16 properly utilized in the provision of emergency response services to
17 individuals with developmental disabilities.
18 The commissioner is to report findings and recommendations
19 from the study to the Governor and Legislature within one year of
20 the bill's effective date.