

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1229

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

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**District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA**

**District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)**

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**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblywoman ELIANA PINTOR MARIN**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Johnson, Assemblywomen Jimenez, Pinkin, Assemblyman Coughlin, Assemblywoman Downey, Assemblyman Houghtaling, Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Chiaravalloti and Assemblywoman Murphy**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires DCA to make information on homeless prevention programs and services available on its Internet website.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/27/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning homeless prevention programs and services and  
2 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

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7 1. a. The Department of Community Affairs shall prepare and  
8 make available on the department's Internet website, in an easily  
9 printable format, information on all county, State, and federal  
10 homeless prevention programs and services that are available to a  
11 homeless person or to a person who is at imminent risk of  
12 homelessness. The department shall update the information  
13 whenever new information about the programs and services  
14 becomes available. The information shall include, but not be  
15 limited to, a list, by county, of:

16 (1) grant programs and homeless intervention programs,  
17 including the "Homeless Veterans Grant Fund" established by  
18 section 4 of P.L.2013, c.239 (C.54A:9-25.33), "Statue of Liberty  
19 Trust Fund," established by section 3 of P.L.1987, c.57 (C.32:32-3),  
20 "County Homelessness Trust Fund," created by P.L.2009,  
21 c.123 (C.52:27D-287a et al.), and the Homeless Intervention  
22 Program in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, that  
23 supply grants and provide referral assistance services to homeless  
24 veterans, homeless persons, and persons at imminent risk of  
25 homelessness, as applicable;

26 (2) homeless youth programs and other homeless services  
27 provided to teens and young adults by the Division of Children's  
28 System of Care and Office of Adolescent Services in the  
29 Department of Children and Families;

30 (3) homeless prevention services provided by the Division of  
31 Child Protection and Permanency in the Department of Children  
32 and Families to families involved in the child welfare system;

33 (4) homeless services provided by the Division of Mental Health  
34 and Addiction Services in the Department of Human Services to  
35 persons suffering from mental illness or co-occurring addiction and  
36 mental health disease; and

37 (5) other county, State, or federal housing and homeless  
38 prevention programs that provide financial and other supportive  
39 services to homeless persons or those at imminent risk of  
40 homelessness.

41 b. The department shall notify each county welfare agency,  
42 Division of Child Protection and Permanency local office, veterans  
43 service office, emergency shelter for the homeless, health care  
44 facility, State psychiatric hospital, crisis intervention unit, screening  
45 service, library, and community-based outreach program and  
46 nonprofit organizations providing housing and homeless prevention  
47 services in the State of the requirement to:

1 (1) post the information specified in paragraph (1) of subsection  
2 a. of this section in a conspicuous public place in the agency, office  
3 shelter, facility, hospital, unit, screening service, library, or place  
4 where housing and homeless prevention services are provided; and

5 (2) provide the information, at no cost, to homeless persons or  
6 persons at imminent risk of homelessness.

7 c. The department shall ensure, in consultation with the  
8 Departments of Children and Families, Health, Human Services,  
9 and Military and Veterans Affairs, that:

10 (1) the information posted on its website is made available on  
11 the websites of the Departments of Children and Families, Health,  
12 Human Services, and Military and Veterans Affairs, and is updated  
13 as necessary; and

14 (2) a website link to the information is posted to the Internet  
15 website of every county welfare agency, Division of Child  
16 Protection and Permanency local office, and veterans service office  
17 in the State.

18 d. As used in this section, "homeless person" means a teen, a  
19 young adult, a veteran, as defined under N.J.S.11A:5-1,  
20 N.J.S.18A:66-2, section 6 of P.L.1954, c.84 (C.43:15A-6), or  
21 section 1 of P.L.1983, c.391 (C.43:16A-11.7), an unemployed or  
22 underemployed person, a person with mental illness, or a person  
23 with developmental disabilities who is living outside, or in a  
24 building not meant for human habitation or which the person has no  
25 legal right to occupy, or in an emergency shelter, in a temporary  
26 housing program which may include a transitional and supportive  
27 housing program if habitation time limits exist, or temporarily in  
28 the home of another household, or in a motel.

29

30 2. Pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,  
31 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Department of Community Affairs,  
32 in consultation with the Departments of Children and Families,  
33 Health, Human Services, and Military and Veterans Affairs, may  
34 adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

35

36 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but in order to  
37 provide the department with time to prepare the website, the  
38 requirement to make the website publicly available, fully  
39 incorporating the information required under section 1, shall remain  
40 inoperative until the first day of the third month next following  
41 enactment.

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#### STATEMENT

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46 This bill requires that the Department of Community Affairs  
47 (DCA) prepare and make available information on its website  
48 concerning all homeless prevention programs that are available to

1 homeless persons or persons who are at imminent risk of  
2 homelessness. The bill also requires that DCA update this information  
3 whenever necessary.

4 Specifically, the bill requires that the information provided by  
5 DCA include, but not be limited to, a list by county of the following  
6 programs: grant programs and homeless intervention programs that  
7 provide assistance services to homeless veterans, homeless persons,  
8 and persons at imminent risk of homelessness; homeless services  
9 provided by the Departments of Military and Veterans Affairs  
10 (DMVA), Children and Families (DCF), Human Services (DHS), and  
11 Health (DOH); and other county, State, or federal housing and  
12 homeless prevention programs that provide supportive services to  
13 homeless persons or those at imminent risk of homelessness.

14 Under the bill, DCA is to notify the following entities of the  
15 requirement to conspicuously post and provide this information, at no  
16 cost, to homeless persons and those at imminent risk of homelessness:  
17 county welfare agencies, Division of Child Protection and Permanency  
18 local offices, veterans service offices, emergency shelters for the  
19 homeless, health care facilities, State psychiatric hospitals, crisis  
20 intervention units, screening services, libraries, and community-based  
21 outreach programs and nonprofit organizations providing housing and  
22 homeless prevention services in the State.

23 The bill also requires DCA, in consultation with DCF, DHS, DOH,  
24 and DMVA, to ensure that: (1) the updated information posted on the  
25 DCA website also is made available on each department's website;  
26 and (2) a link to the information also is posted to the Internet website  
27 of every county welfare agency, DCPP local office, and veterans  
28 service office in the State.

29 Under the bill, a "homeless person" is defined as a teen, a young  
30 adult, a veteran, as defined under N.J.S.11A:5-1, N.J.S.18A:66-2,  
31 section 6 of P.L.1954, c.84 (C.43:15A-6), or section 1 of  
32 P.L.1983, c.391 (C.43:16A-11.7), an unemployed or underemployed  
33 person, a person with mental illness, or a person with developmental  
34 disabilities who is living outside, or in a building not meant for human  
35 habitation or which the person has no legal right to occupy, or in an  
36 emergency shelter, or in a temporary housing program which may  
37 include a transitional and supportive housing program if habitation  
38 time limits exist, or temporarily in the home of another household, or  
39 in a motel.

40 The bill provides that DCA, in consultation with DCF, DHS, DOH,  
41 and DMVA, may adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the  
42 purposes of the bill.