

ASSEMBLY, No. 1244

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOH to establish standardized requirements for registration of vendors in health care facilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning vendors at health care facilities 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. a. The Commissioner of Health shall establish by
8 regulation, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
9 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), standards and requirements
10 for the certification of vendors providing goods or services or
11 conducting other business at health care facilities licensed pursuant
12 to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.). A vendor certification
13 issued under this section shall be valid at every facility licensed by
14 the Department of Health, and no facility shall establish, as a
15 requirement to provide goods or services or conduct business at the
16 facility, any training, certification, or other requirements that are in
17 addition to the requirements established pursuant to this section.

18 b. The standards and requirements established under this
19 section shall include, but need not be limited to: professional
20 certification or licensure requirements; training in patient safety and
21 preventing the spread of infectious disease; training concerning
22 patient privacy rights and the confidentiality of patient health
23 records; standards and requirements for vendors having direct
24 contact with patients; mandatory immunizations; criminal history
25 record background checks; and any other standards or requirements
26 the commissioner deems necessary and appropriate. To the extent
27 possible, the commissioner shall waive any training or other
28 requirement established under this section for an applicant who has
29 completed an equivalent of the training or other requirement as a
30 condition of professional licensure or certification.

31 c. The standards and requirements established under this
32 section may include multiple certification levels based on the nature
33 of the vendor’s goods, services, or business, the nature and degree
34 of contact the vendor will have with patients, the level of access the
35 vendor will have to confidential patient information, the level of
36 supervision by facility staff that will be required for the vendor, and
37 any other factors the commissioner deems relevant.

38 d. The commissioner may charge a reasonable fee for the
39 issuance or renewal of a vendor certification. A vendor
40 certification shall be valid for one year.

41 e. The commissioner shall approve vendor certification
42 programs that meet the requirements of the regulations promulgated
43 pursuant to this section, and shall establish a schedule of the
44 maximum fees that may be charged by vendor certification
45 programs to vendors, which may be based on a sliding scale
46 governed by the size of the vendor’s business or organization.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill requires the Commissioner of Health to establish by
7 regulation standards and requirements for the certification of
8 vendors providing goods or services or otherwise conducting
9 business at health care facilities licensed by the Department of
10 Health (DOH). A vendor certification will be valid for one year,
11 and will be valid at all DOH-licensed facilities. Facilities will be
12 prohibited from imposing additional requirements for vendor access
13 beyond those established pursuant to the bill.

14 The standards and requirements established under the bill are to
15 include: professional certification or licensure requirements;
16 training in patient safety and preventing the spread of infectious
17 disease; training concerning patient privacy rights and the
18 confidentiality of patient health records; standards and requirements
19 for vendors having direct contact with patients; mandatory
20 immunizations; criminal history record background checks; and any
21 other standards or requirements as the commissioner deems
22 necessary and appropriate. To the extent possible, the
23 commissioner is to waive training and other requirements when an
24 applicant has completed an equivalent of the training or requirement
25 as a condition of professional licensure or certification.

26 The commissioner may establish multiple levels of certification
27 based on the nature of the vendor's goods, services, or business, the
28 nature and degree of contact the vendor will have with patients, the
29 level of access the vendor will have to confidential patient
30 information, the level of supervision by facility staff that will be
31 required for the vendor, and any other factors the commissioner
32 deems relevant. The commissioner will be permitted to charge a
33 reasonable fee for the issuance or renewal of a vendor certification.

34 The commissioner is to approve vendor certification programs
35 and establish a schedule of the maximum fees that may be charged
36 by the programs to vendors, which may be based on a sliding scale
37 governed by the size of the vendor's business or organization.

38 Currently, there are no standardized requirements for vendors to
39 access hospitals and other health care facilities in the State, and
40 many facilities have established their own individual requirements
41 for vendor access, resulting in numerous, overlapping requirements
42 that needlessly raise the cost for vendors to conduct business in the
43 State. It is the sponsor's belief that establishing standardized vendor
44 certification requirements will help facilitate vendor relationships
45 with health care facilities while safeguarding patient safety and the
46 confidentiality of patient information.