

ASSEMBLY, No. 2511

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 3, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman NANCY F. MUNOZ

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Requires hospitals to maintain passive audio or visual mechanism for alerting emergency department staff to presence of non-ambulance vehicles containing patients.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning hospital emergency departments 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:

6
7 1. A general hospital licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136
8 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) shall maintain a continuous passive audio or
9 visual mechanism for alerting emergency department staff, at any
10 time of the day, to the presence of a non-ambulance vehicle in the
11 ambulance bay or emergency parking lot that contains a person
12 seeking emergency medical care.

13
14 2. The Commissioner of Health, pursuant to the
15 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
16 seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of
17 this act.

18
19 3. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after enactment,
20 but the Commissioner of Health may take such anticipatory
21 administrative action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for
22 the implementation of this act.

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25 STATEMENT

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27 This bill requires each licensed general hospital in the State to
28 maintain a continuous passive audio or visual mechanism for
29 alerting its emergency department staff, at any time of the day, to
30 the presence of a non-ambulance vehicle in the ambulance bay or
31 emergency parking lot that contains a person seeking emergency
32 medical care.

33 The purpose of this bill is to ensure that emergency department
34 personnel are alerted to situations in which a patient in need of
35 emergency care arrives at the hospital in a vehicle other than an
36 ambulance but is unable to exit the vehicle and enter the emergency
37 department. The alert mechanism required under the bill will help
38 ensure that such patients receive prompt, timely, and appropriate
39 care, regardless of the manner in which they arrive at the hospital or
40 whether they arrive during ordinary business hours.