ASSEMBLY, No. 2642

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE
District 37 (Bergen)
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District 29 (Essex)
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District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:
Assemblymen Caputo, Benson and Assemblywoman Chaparro

SYNOPSIS

Requires hospitals to inquire whether patients have substance use disorder and establish protocols for providing or referring to treatment.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/8/2021)

AN ACT concerning hospital patients with substance use disorder and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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

1. a. A general acute care hospital licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) shall, when providing a health care service to an individual who is 18 years of age or older, inquire as to whether the individual has a substance use disorder or is in recovery from a substance use disorder.

b. Each general acute care hospital licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) shall, within 180 days of the effective date of this act, establish an official facility-wide protocol or unit-specific protocols for providing treatment or referral to treatment for patients who indicate that they have a substance use disorder or are in recovery from a substance use disorder. Such protocols shall, at minimum, be available to the public upon request.

2. The Commissioner of Health shall, in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt any rules and regulations as the commissioner deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month next following the date of enactment, except that the Commissioner of Health may take any anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

STATEMENT

This bill would require acute care hospitals to inquire whether a patient who is 18 years of age or older has a substance use disorder or is in recovery from a substance use disorder. The bill also requires each hospital to establish appropriate protocols for providing treatment or referral to treatment for patients who indicate that they have a substance use disorder or are in recovery from a substance use disorder. Such protocols would be available to the public upon request.