

ASSEMBLY, No. 2962

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CHRISTOPHER P. DEPHILLIPS

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Requires reporting of first responder suicides to DOH.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/24/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning suicide and supplementing Title 26 of the
2 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. The chief of a squad or association of first responders in
8 this State, or the chief's designee, shall report within a reasonable
9 time to the Department of Health, in a manner prescribed by the
10 Commissioner of Health, any incident of a completed suicide by a
11 first responder. The report shall include:

12 (1) the month and year during which the first responder's death
13 occurred;

14 (2) the first responder's age, salary, and length of service as a
15 first responder at the time of the first responder's death;

16 (3) the race and gender of the first responder;

17 (4) any known facts pertaining to the cause or method of
18 suicide; and

19 (5) the military veteran status and level of education of the first
20 responder;

21 b. The report required pursuant to subsection a. of this section
22 shall not identify the first responder by name or date of birth.

23 c. The Commissioner of Health shall aggregate the data
24 provided pursuant to subsection a. of this section, which aggregated
25 data shall be made publicly available for use in suicide prevention
26 and intervention studies.

27 d. The reporting of a suicide pursuant to this section shall not
28 replace or alter any other requirement of law, professional standard,
29 or obligation that requires the first responder squad or association to
30 evaluate a death or report a suicide.

31 e. As used in this section, "first responder" means a paid or
32 volunteer firefighter, paid or volunteer member of a duly
33 incorporated first aid, emergency, ambulance, or rescue squad or
34 association, or any other individual who, in the course of his or her
35 employment, is dispatched to the scene of a motor vehicle accident
36 or other emergency situation for the purpose of providing medical
37 care or other assistance.

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39 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh
40 month following enactment.

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43 STATEMENT

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45 This bill requires reporting of first responder suicides to the
46 Department of Health (DOH).

47 Under the bill, the chief of a squad or association of first
48 responders in this State, or the chief's designee, is to report within a

1 reasonable time to the DOH, in a manner prescribed by the
2 Commissioner of Health (commissioner), any incident of a
3 completed suicide by a first responder. The report is to include: (1)
4 the month and year during which the first responder's death
5 occurred; (2) the first responder's age, salary, and length of service
6 as a first responder at the time of the first responder's death; (3) the
7 race and gender of the first responder; (4) any known facts
8 pertaining to the cause or method of suicide; and (5) the military
9 veteran status and level of education of the first responder;

10 The bill provides that the commissioner is to aggregate the data
11 provided pursuant to the bill's provisions, which is to be made
12 publicly available for use in suicide prevention and intervention
13 studies.

14 Under the bill, "first responder" means a paid or volunteer
15 firefighter, paid or volunteer member of a duly incorporated first
16 aid, emergency, ambulance, or rescue squad or association, or any
17 other individual who, in the course of his or her employment, is
18 dispatched to the scene of a motor vehicle accident or other
19 emergency situation for the purpose of providing medical care or
20 other assistance.