

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 3007

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

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District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

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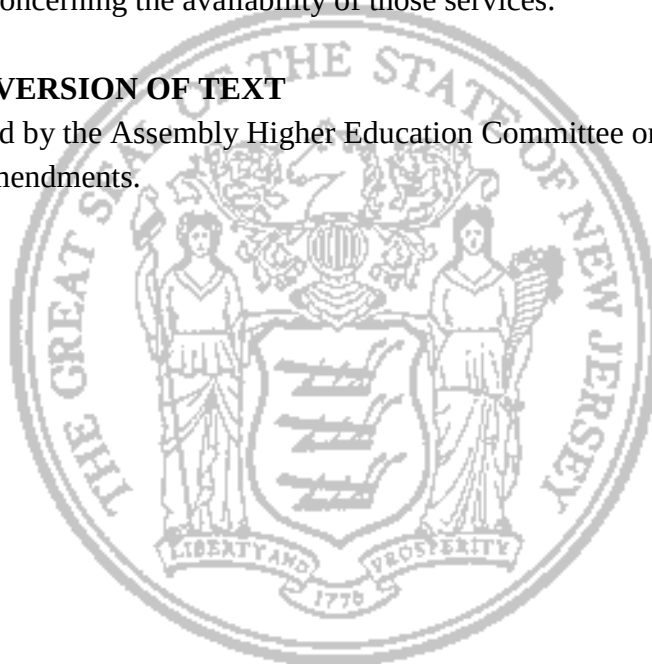
Assemblywoman McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Requires institutions of higher education to provide students with access to mental health care programs and services and to establish a hotline to provide information concerning the availability of those services.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Higher Education Committee on December 14, 2020, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/14/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the mental health care programs and services
 2 offered by institutions of higher education and supplementing
 3 chapter 61D of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7
 8 1. a. Beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year and in each
 9 academic year thereafter, a public and independent institution of
 10 higher education shall ensure that all students have access to campus-
 11 based mental health care programs and services, and shall provide
 12 each newly-enrolled student with information concerning the location
 13 and availability of those programs and services.

14 b. Beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year, each public and
 15 independent institution of higher education shall establish and
 16 maintain, on a 24-hour basis, a toll-free telephone hotline for students.
 17 The hotline shall receive and respond to calls from students seeking
 18 counseling for depression, anxiety, stress, or other psychological or
 19 emotional tension, trauma, or disorder. The operators of the hotline
 20 shall seek to identify those callers who should be referred to additional
 21 counseling services, and to provide such referrals.

22 The number for the hotline shall be posted in each dormitory,
 23 library, and student center, and any other facility or area on campus
 24 that the institution determines to be appropriate.

25 c. The operators of the hotline shall be, to the greatest extent
 26 possible, persons who by experience or education are (1) familiar with
 27 the emotional and psychological tensions, depressions, and anxieties
 28 unique to higher education students; or (2) trained to provide
 29 counseling services involving substance abuse, personal stress
 30 management, and other emotional or psychological disorders or
 31 conditions which may be likely to adversely affect the well-being of
 32 students.

33 ¹d. An institution of higher education may satisfy the hotline
 34 requirement established pursuant to subsection b. of this section by
 35 providing each student with the hotline number for the National
 36 Suicide Prevention Hotline or the NJ Hopeline. In addition to
 37 providing students with the hotline numbers, the institution shall post
 38 the hotline numbers in each dormitory, library, and student center, and
 39 any other facility or area on campus that the institution determines to
 40 be appropriate.¹

41
 42 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
 43 the 2021-2022 academic year.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
 not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AHI committee amendments adopted December 14, 2020.