

[Second 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)

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

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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 amended by the General Assembly on January 11, 2021.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/10/2022)

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 ²:

11 (1)² ensure that all ²on-campus² students have access to campus-
 12 based mental health care programs and services ²**[,];**

13 (2) provide assistance and referrals to mental health support
 14 services to any student unable to access on-campus services;² and

15 ²**[shall]** (3)² provide each newly-enrolled student with information
 16 concerning the location and availability of those programs and
 17 services.

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

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

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

37 ¹d. An institution of higher education may satisfy the hotline
 38 requirement established pursuant to subsection b. of this section by
 39 providing each student with the hotline number for the National
 40 Suicide Prevention ²**[Hotline or]** Lifeline,² the NJ Hopeline ², or any
 41 24/7 mental health hotline deemed appropriate by the Secretary of
 42 Higher Education² . In addition to providing students with the hotline
 43 numbers, the institution shall post the hotline numbers in each
 44 dormitory, library, and student center, and any other facility or area on
 45 campus that the institution determines to be appropriate.¹

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.

²Assembly floor amendments adopted January 11, 2021.

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