

ASSEMBLY, No. 3155

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Provides that denial of services based on a person's disability or perceived disability by domestic violence shelters is unlawful discrimination.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/11/2021)

1 **AN ACT** concerning unlawful discrimination by domestic violence
2 shelters and supplementing Title 10 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. It shall be an unlawful discrimination for a shelter that
8 operates under the “Shelters for Victims of Domestic Violence
9 Act,” P.L.1979, c.337 (C.30:14-1 et seq.) to deny admission to a
10 person seeking the shelter’s services based on that person’s
11 disability or perceived disability. Whenever the Attorney General
12 receives a complaint alleging an unlawful discrimination pursuant
13 to this section, a complaint shall be investigated and prosecuted in
14 accordance with the provisions of the "Law Against
15 Discrimination," P.L.1945, c.169 (C.10:5-1 et seq.).

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17 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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22 This bill incorporates in statute that it shall be an unlawful
23 discrimination for a shelter that operates under the “Shelters for
24 Victims of Domestic Violence Act,” P.L.1979, c.337 (C.30:14-
25 1 et seq.) to deny admission to a person seeking the shelter’s
26 services based on that person’s disability or perceived disability.
27 This bill supplements the "Law Against Discrimination," P.L.1945,
28 c.169 (C.10:5-1 et seq.) and provides that if the Attorney General
29 receives a complaint alleging this type of unlawful discrimination, a
30 complaint shall be investigated and prosecuted in accordance with
31 the provisions of the "Law Against Discrimination." Remedies
32 available under the "Law Against Discrimination" include, in
33 addition to any other relief or affirmative action provided by law,
34 liability for penalties as set forth in section 2 of P.L.1983, c.412
35 (C.10:5-14.1a). The penalties shall be determined by the Director of
36 the Division of Civil Rights. Maximum amounts set forth in the
37 statute provide for: (1) an amount not exceeding \$10,000 if the
38 respondent has not committed any prior violation within the five-
39 year period preceding the new charge; (2) an amount not exceeding
40 \$25,000 if the respondent has been adjudged to have committed one
41 other violation within the five-year period; and (3) an amount not
42 exceeding \$50,000 if the respondent has committed two or more
43 violations within the seven-year period.