

**ASSEMBLY, No. 3205**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER**

**District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Prohibits State from billing counties for cost of psychiatric hospitalization when patient or legally responsible relative is responsible for costs by court order.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning payment for costs of hospitalization for certain  
2 patients in psychiatric hospitals and amending R.S.30:4-68.

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

6  
7 1. R.S.30:4-68 is amended to read as follows:

8 30:4-68. In all cases where a patient is found to have a legal  
9 settlement in any county in this State, and he and his legally  
10 responsible relatives are unable to pay the cost of his  
11 hospitalization, then the cost of his care and maintenance shall be  
12 borne by such county from the beginning of his confinement, as  
13 provided by law, except that part which may be collected on  
14 account of his board, as provided in section 30:4-60 of this Title.

15 In all cases where a court orders that a patient or a legally  
16 responsible relative is responsible for the full costs of the patient's  
17 hospitalization, the State shall not bill the county for any portion of  
18 the cost of the patient's care, regardless of any expectation of  
19 repaying or crediting any adjustment billing.

20 (cf: P.L.1965, c.59, s.53)

21  
22 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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## 25 STATEMENT

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27 This bill prohibits the State from billing counties for the cost of  
28 involuntary psychiatric hospitalization when a court orders that the  
29 patient or a legally responsible relative is responsible for the costs  
30 of the hospitalization.

31 Currently, the Department of Human Services employs a system  
32 whereby it bills counties for the costs related to these patients, and  
33 then credits the counties through a subsequent reconciliation  
34 process.

35 It is the sponsor's belief that counties should not have to raise  
36 taxpayer dollars to pay State invoices in cases where a court order  
37 requires the patient to be responsible for the full cost of care.  
38 Additionally, the current "credit and reconciliation" process is  
39 duplicative, administratively inefficient, and wasteful of taxpayer-  
40 funded employees' time.

**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.