

ASSEMBLY, No. 3286

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Revises membership requirements for county mental health boards.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/25/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning county mental health boards and amending
2 P.L.1957, c.146.

3

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

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7 1. Section 3 of P.L.1957, c.146 (C.30:9A-3) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 3. The several counties are hereby authorized to provide for
10 community mental health services in accordance with the provisions
11 of this act. Each county board of freeholders, in order to participate
12 under this act, shall appoint a county mental health board of not less
13 than **[7]** seven nor more than 12 residents of the county, to serve
14 without compensation, representing local boards of health, school
15 boards, the county welfare board, parent-teacher associations,
16 county mental health associations, and the county medical
17 associations, and including at least one member who has a family
18 member who has been diagnosed as having a mental illness, and
19 such other members as the county board of freeholders shall deem
20 necessary. In addition, if the board reviews, revises, and makes
21 recommendations with regard to substance use disorders, and such
22 functions are not undertaken pursuant to subsection d. of section 4
23 of P.L.1983, c.531 (C.26:2B-33), at least one member of the board
24 shall be an individual who is in recovery from a substance use
25 disorder, or who has a family member who is in recovery from a
26 substance use disorder. The county mental health board shall
27 annually elect a **[chairman]** chairperson. The board of freeholders
28 shall provide the mental health board with suitable quarters and
29 such clerical assistance as may be required to carry out its
30 functions. Such board shall meet not less than **[4]** four times in
31 each year and shall review progress in the development of
32 comprehensive community mental health services in the county and
33 make recommendations to the local agencies, the community mental
34 health board, and the Department of **[Institutions and Agencies]**
35 Human Services.

36 Any county mental health board may, with the approval of the
37 board of freeholders, create the position of mental health
38 administrator. The administrator shall be the executive officer of
39 the board and assist in carrying out its duties under this act.

40 The commissioner shall by regulation establish qualifications for
41 the position of mental health administrator. If **[he]** the
42 commissioner is satisfied that the appointee is qualified and that the
43 board of freeholders and the county mental health board have
44 fulfilled the requirements of the act and of regulations issued
45 pursuant thereto, **[he]** the commissioner may approve

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.

1 reimbursement from available **【Federal】** federal and State funds of
2 that portion of the salary of such administrator and of such
3 necessary administrative expenses related to **【his】** the
4 administrator's duties as shall be allowed by regulation.
5 (cf: P.L.1967, c.100, s.3)

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7 2. This act shall take effect six months after the date of
8 enactment.

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STATEMENT

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13 This bill requires that county mental health boards include at
14 least one member who has a family member who has been
15 diagnosed as having a mental illness. In addition, if the county
16 mental health board addresses issues related to substance use
17 disorders, and that function is not undertaken as a duty of the Local
18 Advisory Committee on Alcohol Use Disorder and Substance Use
19 Disorder pursuant to subsection d. of section 4 of P.L.1983, c.531
20 (C.26:2B-33), the board is to include at least one member who is in
21 recovery from a substance use disorder, or who has a family
22 member who is in recovery from a substance use disorder.