

ASSEMBLY, No. 3731

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER

District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Requires county and municipal welfare agencies to determine if person is sex offender within certain time after initial placement in emergency shelter and to provide notification of placement to law enforcement.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/1/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning sex offenders and supplementing Title 55 of the
2 Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. Within three business days after the initial placement,
8 every county and municipal welfare agency shall determine whether
9 the person's sex offender registration information is published on
10 the New Jersey State Police sex offender Internet registry pursuant
11 to the provisions of P.L.2001, c.167 (C.2C:7-12 et seq.), for the
12 exclusive purpose of the initial placement of persons in emergency
13 shelters, which include but are not limited to hotels and motels.

14 b. If a county or municipal welfare agency determines that a
15 person being initially placed in an emergency shelter is a sex
16 offender, that agency shall provide written notification of the
17 placement to the chief law enforcement officer of the municipality
18 where the shelter is located, or if the municipality does not have a
19 local police force, the Superintendent of State Police.
20 Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, a sex offender
21 shall have the primary responsibility to notify the appropriate law
22 enforcement agency upon a change of address pursuant to the
23 provisions of section 2 of P.L.1994, c.133 (C.2C:7-2).

24 c. Upon request by any law enforcement agency, the address of
25 a sex offender who is placed in an emergency shelter shall be
26 provided to State and local law enforcement agencies who are
27 attempting to locate a registered sex offender who no longer resides
28 at the last known address provided to law enforcement officials.

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30 2. The Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs
31 in conjunction with the Commissioner of the Department of Human
32 Services shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the
33 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
34 seq.), as are necessary to implement this act.

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36 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month
37 following enactment.

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STATEMENT

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42 This bill requires county and municipal welfare agencies to
43 determine whether a person's sex offender registration information
44 is published on the New Jersey State Police sex offender Internet
45 registry within three business days of the person's initial placement
46 in an emergency shelter. This information is to be used for the
47 exclusive purpose of the initial placement of persons in emergency
48 shelters.

1 If an agency determines that a person who has been placed in an
2 emergency shelter is a sex offender, that agency is required to
3 provide written notification of the placement of the sex offender to
4 the chief law enforcement officer in the municipality where the
5 shelter is located, or if the municipality does not have a local police
6 force, the Superintendent of State Police. Notwithstanding this
7 requirement, a sex offender still has the primary responsibility to
8 notify the appropriate law enforcement agency upon a change of
9 address, as required by current law.

10 Finally, the bill requires that, upon the request of any law
11 enforcement agency, the address of a sex offender who is placed in
12 an emergency shelter be provided to State and local law
13 enforcement officials who are attempting to locate a registered sex
14 offender who no longer resides at the last known address provided
15 to law enforcement officials.

16 It is the sponsor's intent to ensure that emergency shelters are
17 safe for families by minimizing the risk of a sex offender being
18 placed in an emergency shelter that also houses families with
19 children.