

ASSEMBLY, No. 3962

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 1, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK

District 18 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires annual training for health officers on public health emergencies and public health outbreak management.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

1 **AN ACT** concerning annual training for health officers on public
2 health emergencies and public health outbreak management,
3 supplementing P.L.1975, c.329 (C.26:3A2-1 et seq.).
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
7

8 1. a. Each full-time health officer of a local health agency shall
9 complete an annual training program in public health emergencies
10 and public health outbreak management developed pursuant to
11 subsection b. of this section. The training program shall explain the
12 duties, responsibilities, and knowledge necessary to serve as a
13 health officer in the advent of a public health emergency or public
14 health outbreak.

15 b. Within six months of the effective date of P.L. ,
16 c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the Department of
17 Health, in consultation with the Division of Local Government
18 Services in the Department of Community Affairs, shall develop the
19 annual training program required pursuant to subsection a. of this
20 section. In developing the program, the Department of Health shall
21 examine similar programs developed by various public, non-profit,
22 and private sector entities, as well as similar programs in other
23 states, and shall survey the available training resources and
24 methods. The Department of Health shall create an electronic
25 version of the training program accessible on the Internet. The
26 Department of Health may provide the training program through the
27 department's employees or through a person, agency, organization,
28 or entity contracted by the department for that purpose. The
29 Department of Health shall, as necessary, notify all health officers,
30 all local health boards, the secretaries of local health boards, and
31 municipal and county clerks of the requirement for all health
32 officers to complete the training program.

33 c. Upon completion of the annual training program required
34 pursuant to P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
35 each health officer shall sign a statement asserting that the officer
36 has received the training and file the certification with the
37 Department of Health. The certification shall be public
38 information. The Department of Health shall report a health
39 officer's failure to complete the training program. All new health
40 officers shall fulfill the training program in public health
41 emergencies and public health outbreak management requirement
42 no later than one year after assuming the position.

43 d. All costs associated with developing, implementing, and
44 effectuating an annual training program for health officers on public
45 health emergencies and public health outbreak management shall be
46 funded by the Department of Health at no cost to health officers,
47 local health agencies, municipalities, or counties.

1 or through a person, agency, organization, or entity contracted by
2 the Department of Health for that purpose.

3 Under the bill, the Department of Health would, as necessary,
4 notify all health officers, all local health boards, the secretaries of
5 local health boards, and municipal and county clerks of the
6 requirement for all health officers to complete the training program.

7 The bill also requires all newly elected, appointed, or designated
8 health officers to fulfill the training program in public health
9 emergencies and public health outbreak management requirement
10 no later than one year after assuming the position. If a health officer
11 fails to receive the training within the specified time frame, an
12 escalating schedule, from \$1,000 to \$5,000, of personal fines are
13 levied upon the officer. The fines would not be permitted to be paid
14 or reimbursed by the local health agency or local governing body
15 and all fines must be dedicated towards improving the annual
16 training program.

17 The bill would take effect immediately, except that section 1
18 would remain inoperable until the promulgation of rules and
19 regulations pursuant to section 2.