

ASSEMBLY, No. 4221

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 8, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

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District 11 (Monmouth)

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SYNOPSIS

Requires Office of Information Technology to establish centralized, one-stop website resource guide to assist persons in navigating the State's mental health and substance use disorder service systems.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/10/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the establishment of a one-stop website to
2 assist persons in navigating the State's mental health and
3 substance use disorder service systems and supplementing Title
4 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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

8
9 1. a. The Office of Information Technology, in consultation
10 with the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services in the
11 Department of Human Services, the Department of Health, and the
12 Department of Children and Families, shall:

13 (1) establish and maintain a centralized website that is designed
14 to provide a one-stop reference guide for persons with mental health
15 or substance use disorders and their families in order to assist such
16 persons in navigating the State's mental health and substance use
17 disorder service systems; and

18 (2) publicize the availability of the website established pursuant
19 to paragraph (1) of this subsection, using all available media,
20 including print, signage, television, radio, the Internet, and social
21 media.

22 b. The website established pursuant to this section shall, at a
23 minimum, provide the following information in an easily searchable
24 format:

25 (1) information about how a person or a concerned third-party
26 may seek help for a mental health issue or substance use disorder,
27 including, but not limited to: (a) a description of the various types
28 of mental health and substance use disorder treatment services that
29 are available in the State; (b) a description of, contact information
30 for, the operating hours of, and hyperlinks to the websites of,
31 mental health and substance use disorder treatment providers in the
32 State; (c) information about, and contact information for, the State's
33 mental health and substance use disorder hotlines and peer-support
34 groups; (d) information about the State's involuntary commitment
35 procedures under P.L.1987, c.116 and P.L.2009, c.112 (C.30:4-27.1
36 et seq.); and (e) information about the State's guardianship
37 procedures under chapter 12 of Title 3B of the New Jersey Statutes;

38 (2) a description of, and hyperlinks to, available educational
39 materials and resources that address issues related to mental health
40 or substance use or that provide tools that can be used to assess a
41 person's need for mental health or substance use disorder treatment;

42 (3) a description of, and information about: (a) the community-
43 based housing options that are available to persons in the State who
44 have or are recovering from a mental health or substance use
45 disorder, including hyperlinks to the websites of supportive housing
46 and recovery residence providers in the State; and (b) the resources,
47 materials, and supports that are available to assist persons who are
48 transitioning into the community following the receipt of mental

1 health or substance use disorder treatment in a residential setting,
2 including a description of any available housing assistance or utility
3 voucher programs;

4 (4) a description of, and information about, the duties and
5 functions of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services
6 in the Department of Human Services with respect to the licensing
7 and oversight of mental health and substance use disorder treatment
8 providers and the provision of mental health and substance use
9 disorder treatment services in the State, including a hyperlink to the
10 division's Internet webpage;

11 (5) a description of, and information about the duties and
12 functions of the Department of Community Affairs, the Division of
13 Mental Health and Addiction Services in the Department of Human
14 Services, and other appropriate agencies or entities with respect to
15 the oversight and licensing of sober living homes and other
16 substance use disorder recovery residences in the State wherein
17 treatment is not provided to residents, including hyperlinks to the
18 statutes and regulations that relate to the operation and oversight of
19 substance use disorder recovery residences; and

20 (6) hyperlinks to any available reports, created by the division
21 or any other public or non-profit entity, which relate to the status or
22 quality of mental health or substance use disorder treatment or
23 recovery services or providers in the State.

24 c. A hyperlink to the one-stop website established under this
25 section shall be posted in a prominent location on the website of the
26 Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services in the
27 Department of Human Services and on the websites of the
28 Departments of Health and Children and Families.

29
30 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
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33 STATEMENT

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35 This bill would require the Office of Information Technology, in
36 consultation with the Division of Mental Health and Addiction
37 Services in the Department of Human Services (division), the
38 Department of Health, and the Department of Children and
39 Families, to establish, maintain, and publicize the availability of, a
40 centralized website that would provide a one-stop reference guide
41 for persons with mental health or substance use disorders and their
42 families in the State in order to assist such persons in navigating the
43 State's mental health and substance use disorder service systems.

44 At a minimum, the centralized website is to provide the
45 following information in an easily searchable format:

46 1) information about how a person or a concerned third-party
47 may seek help for a mental health issue or substance use disorder,
48 including, but not limited to: a) a description of the various types

1 of mental health and substance use disorder treatment services that
2 are available in the State; b) a description of, contact information
3 for, the operating hours of, and hyperlinks to the websites of,
4 mental health and substance use disorder treatment providers in the
5 State; c) information about, and contact information for, the State's
6 mental health and substance use disorder hotlines and peer-support
7 groups; d) information about the State's involuntary commitment
8 procedures; and e) information about the State's guardianship
9 procedures;

10 2) a description of, and hyperlinks to, available educational
11 materials and resources that address issues related to mental health
12 or substance use or that provide tools that can be used to assess a
13 person's need for mental health or substance use disorder treatment;

14 3) a description of, and information about: a) the community-
15 based housing options that are available to persons in the State who
16 have or are recovering from a mental health or substance use
17 disorder, including hyperlinks to the websites of supportive housing
18 and recovery residence providers in the State; and b) the resources,
19 materials, and supports that are available to assist persons who are
20 transitioning into the community following the receipt of mental
21 health or substance use disorder treatment in a residential setting,
22 including a description of any available housing assistance or utility
23 voucher programs;

24 4) a description of, and information about the division's duties
25 and functions with respect to the licensing and oversight of mental
26 health and substance use disorder treatment providers and the
27 provision of mental health and substance use disorder treatment
28 services in the State, including a hyperlink to the division's Internet
29 webpage;

30 5) a description of, and information about the duties and
31 functions of the Department of Community Affairs, the division,
32 and other appropriate agencies or entities with respect to the
33 oversight and licensing of sober living homes and other substance
34 use disorder recovery residences in the State wherein treatment is
35 not provided to residents, including hyperlinks to the statutes and
36 regulations that relate to the operation and oversight of substance
37 use disorder recovery residences; and

38 6) hyperlinks to any available reports, created by the division
39 or any other public or non-profit entity, which relate to the status or
40 quality of mental health or substance use disorder treatment or
41 recovery services or providers in the State.

42 A hyperlink to the one-stop website is to be posted in a
43 prominent location on the division's website and on the websites of
44 the Departments of Health and Children and Families.