

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4437

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 23, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

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District 29 (Essex)

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

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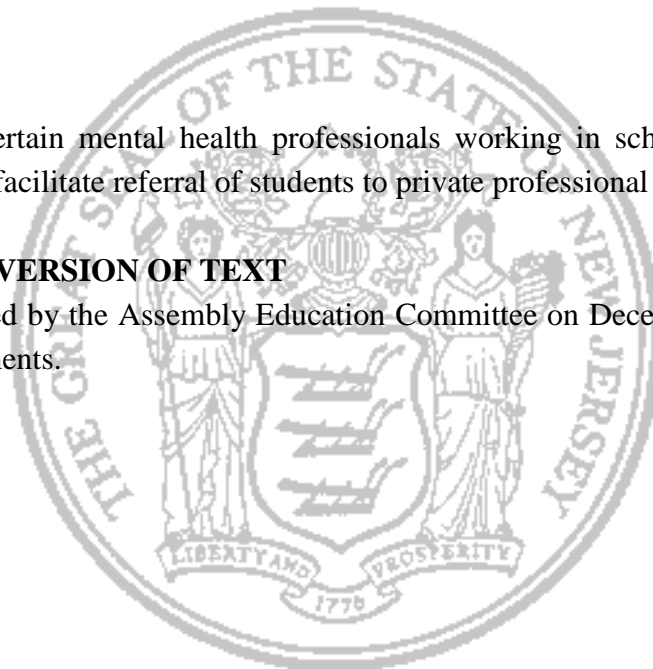
**Assemblywomen Vainieri Huttle, Murphy, Assemblyman Benson,
Assemblywomen Mosquera, Reynolds-Jackson, Assemblyman
Chiaravalloti, Assemblywomen Jasey, McKnight, Downey, Swain,
Assemblyman Tully, Assemblywomen Lopez and Timberlake**

SYNOPSIS

Permits certain mental health professionals working in school districts to refer or help facilitate referral of students to private professional counselors.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on December 14, 2020, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/1/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning mental health services for public school
2 students and supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. A student assistance coordinator ¹**[or a]** , school counselor, or¹
9 school psychologist or other mental health professional working in a
10 school district may refer, or help facilitate the referral of, a student to a
11 private individual licensed to provide professional counseling under
12 Title 45 of the Revised Statutes, for mental health assessments and
13 services. ¹**[After consultation with a student assistance coordinator or**
14 **a school psychologist or other mental health professional working in**
15 **the school district, a principal or a school counselor also may refer or**
16 **help facilitate the referral of a student to a private individual licensed**
17 **to provide professional counseling, for mental health assessments and**
18 **services]** A student assistance coordinator, school counselor, or
19 school psychologist or other mental health professional working in
20 a school district shall not refer a student to a private individual
21 licensed to provide professional counseling if the student assistance
22 coordinator, school counselor, or school psychologist or other
23 mental health professional, or that individual's immediate family, or
24 that individual in combination with the individual's immediate
25 family has a significant beneficial interest in or with the private
26 individual licensed to provide professional counseling¹. If a student
27 is not legally permitted to consent on his own to the mental health
28 assessments and services, the student's parent or guardian shall be
29 notified of, and consent to, the referral or the facilitation of a referral
30 prior to the provision of any assessment or service by the licensed
31 private individual.

32 In the case of a referral or a facilitation of a referral pursuant to this
33 section, neither the school district nor the individual referring or
34 facilitating the referral shall bear the cost of the assessments or
35 services provided to the student.

36 ¹This section shall not be construed to limit a school district's
37 authority to provide mental health assessments and services to a
38 student prior to or after a referral or the facilitation of a referral has
39 been made to a private individual licensed to provide professional
40 counseling under Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.¹

41
42 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AED committee amendments adopted December 14, 2020.