

ASSEMBLY, No. 4443

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 23, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO

District 28 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes protocols for treating emergency room patients with dementia.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/30/2020)

1 The protocols are to include, at a minimum: (1) guidelines for
2 identifying a patient who has dementia or a related disorder; (2)
3 guidelines for communicating with a patient who has dementia or a
4 related disorder; (3) guidelines for caring for a patient with
5 dementia or a related disorder who has become confused or
6 disoriented; (4) ensuring hospital staff are informed of which
7 patients have been identified as having dementia or a related
8 disorder; (5) permitting a patient with dementia or a related disorder
9 to have a family member or caregiver accompany the patient
10 throughout his or her stay in the hospital; and (6) informing a
11 patient with dementia or a related disorder that the patient is entitled
12 to have a family member or caregiver accompany the patient
13 throughout his or her stay in the hospital.

14 The bill defines "dementia" to mean a chronic or persistent
15 disorder of the mental processes due to organic brain disease, for
16 which no curative treatment is available, and marked by memory
17 disorders, changes in personality, deterioration in personal care,
18 impaired reasoning ability, and disorientation.