

ASSEMBLY, No. 4855

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 19, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman NICHOLAS CHIARAVALLOTTI

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Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblyman Danielsen, Assemblywoman
Downey, Assemblymen Wirths, Space, Assemblywomen Jasey, Tucker,
Assemblymen Johnson, Mejia, Assemblywomen DiMaso, Swain and
Assemblyman Tully**

SYNOPSIS

Requires DOH to develop Statewide plan for infection control and prevention infrastructure improvements in nursing homes.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/20/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning nursing homes and supplementing Title 26 of
2 the Revised Statutes.

3

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

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7 1. a. The Department of Health shall conduct a Statewide
8 nursing home infection control and prevention infrastructure
9 assessment, which assessment shall include, at a minimum:

10 (1) a count of the total number of single-resident rooms in
11 nursing homes, a determination as to what percentage of the total
12 number of authorized nursing home beds in New Jersey are utilized
13 in single-resident rooms, and a review of the ability of nursing
14 homes to convert multiple-resident rooms to single-resident rooms
15 or otherwise expand the number of single-resident rooms;

16 (2) a survey of the maintenance status of heating, ventilating, air
17 conditioning, and refrigeration systems in nursing homes;

18 (3) a study of the utilization of negative pressure rooms and
19 other physical plant features that are designed or may be
20 implemented to increase infection control and prevention capability
21 in nursing homes; and

22 (4) any other infrastructure-related infection control or
23 prevention considerations as are recommended for assessment by
24 the New Jersey Task Force on Long-Term Care Quality and Safety
25 established pursuant to P.L.2020, c.88. No later than 30 days after
26 the effective date of this act, the Department of Health shall request
27 that the New Jersey Task Force on Long-Term Care Quality and
28 Safety provide the department with recommendations for
29 infrastructure-related infection control and prevention
30 considerations to be assessed pursuant to this section, which
31 recommendations shall be provided by the task force to the
32 department no later than 30 days after the date of the request.

33 b. The assessment required under subsection a. of this section
34 shall be completed no later than one year after the effective date of
35 this act.

36 c. No later than 180 days after completing the assessment
37 required pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the department
38 shall develop a Statewide nursing home infection control and
39 prevention infrastructure improvement plan, which plan shall:

40 (1) establish standards and requirements for improvements to
41 the infrastructure in nursing homes to improve infection control and
42 prevention and to ensure the nursing homes are primarily focused
43 on resident safety and the quality of services provided to residents;

44 (2) establish a long-term strategy to redesign the nursing home
45 industry in New Jersey to ensure the system is primarily focused on
46 resident safety and the quality of services provided to residents,
47 which strategy shall include design and construction standards for
48 new facilities and facilities undergoing significant modifications;

1 (3) review and seek to incorporate best practice standards in
2 place in other states; and

3 (4) establish specific goals and timelines for improvements,
4 which shall take into account the age of the facilities, the
5 availability of land for expansion or new construction, the costs of
6 improvements, and the authorizations that would be required.

7 In developing the Statewide nursing home infection control and
8 prevention infrastructure improvement plan pursuant to this
9 subsection, the department shall consult with representatives from
10 the nursing home industry, including representatives from for-profit
11 and non-profit facilities, groups representing nursing home workers,
12 including both direct care providers and support staff, resident
13 advocates, and the families of residents.

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15 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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20 This bill requires the Department of Health to conduct a
21 Statewide nursing home infection control and prevention
22 infrastructure assessment and, based on that assessment, develop a
23 Statewide nursing home infection control and prevention
24 infrastructure improvement plan.

25 At a minimum, the assessment will include: (1) a count of the
26 total number of single-resident rooms in nursing homes in the State
27 and the percentage of total nursing home beds that are utilized in
28 single-resident rooms, as well as a review of the ability of nursing
29 homes to expand single-resident room capacity;

30 (2) a survey of the maintenance status of heating, ventilating, air
31 conditioning, and refrigeration systems in nursing homes;

32 (3) a study of the utilization of negative pressure rooms and
33 other physical plant features that are designed or may be
34 implemented to increase infection control and prevention capability
35 in nursing homes; and

36 (4) any other infrastructure-related infection control or
37 prevention considerations as are recommended for assessment by
38 the New Jersey Task Force on Long-Term Care Quality and Safety
39 established pursuant to P.L.2020, c.88. The bill expressly requires
40 the department to request recommendations from the task force.

41 The assessment is to be completed within one year after the
42 effective date of the bill.

43 No later than 180 days after the assessment is completed, the
44 department will be required to develop a Statewide nursing home
45 infection control and prevention infrastructure improvement plan,
46 which plan is to:

47 (1) establish standards and requirements for improvements to
48 the infrastructure in nursing homes to improve infection control and

1 prevention and to ensure the nursing homes are primarily focused
2 on resident safety and the quality of services provided to residents;

3 (2) establish a long-term strategy to redesign the nursing home
4 industry in New Jersey to ensure the industry is primarily focused
5 on resident safety and the quality of services provided to residents,
6 which strategy will include design and construction standards for
7 new facilities and facilities undergoing significant modifications;

8 (3) review and seek to incorporate best practice standards in
9 place in other states; and

10 (4) establish specific goals and timelines for improvements,
11 which will take into account the age of the facilities, the availability
12 of land for expansion or new construction, the costs of
13 improvements, and the authorizations that would be required.

14 In developing the Statewide plan, the department will be required
15 to consult with representatives from the nursing home industry,
16 including representatives from for-profit and non-profit facilities,
17 groups representing both direct care providers and support staff in
18 nursing homes, resident advocates, and the families of residents.