

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4884

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 26, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

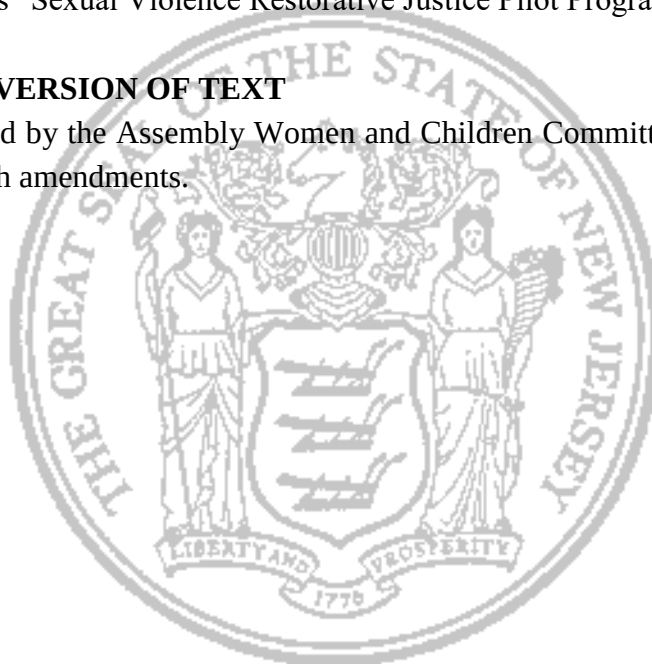
Assemblyman Zwicker, Assemblywoman Speight, Assemblymen Johnson, Benson, Holley, Assemblywoman N.Munoz, Assemblyman Stanley, Assemblywomen Schepisi, Swain, Assemblymen McKeon and Tully

SYNOPSIS

Establishes “Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Women and Children Committee on February 23, 2021, with amendments.



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

1 AN ACT establishing a “Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot
2 Program.”

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. The Attorney General shall establish a three-year “Sexual
8 Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program” to implement a
9 restorative justice program for survivors of sexual violence. The
10 Attorney General shall implement this program by entering into an
11 agreement with an organization to design the program and provide
12 technical assistance and an agreement with a separate organization
13 to conduct the program. The Attorney General shall select the
14 organizations, who are to have expertise in trauma informed care
15 and not be associated with any law enforcement agency, through
16 requests for proposals. Both organizations shall be compensated.

17 b. Through the direct participation of survivors of sexual
18 violence, including survivors who have chosen not to report the act
19 of sexual violence to law enforcement, the program shall implement
20 restorative justice practices which include, but are not limited to,
21 upholding the principles of survivor autonomy, restoring a sense of
22 control and independence to survivors, and emphasizing outcomes
23 that are essential to the survivor’s healing process.

24 ¹A survivor of sexual assault and a person accused of sexual
25 assault shall not be required to participate in the restorative justice
26 program. If a survivor of sexual assault chooses to participate in
27 the restorative justice program, the survivor may choose to no
28 longer participate at any time.¹

29 The pilot program shall be established in one northern, one
30 central, and one southern county in this State, as determined by the
31 Attorney General.

32 c. The Attorney General, in conjunction with the organizations
33 selected pursuant to subsection a. of this section, shall submit a
34 report evaluating the effectiveness of the pilot program to the
35 Governor and, pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of P.L.1991,
36 c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), the Legislature within 90 days of completion
37 of the program. The report shall evaluate the pilot program and
38 recommend whether the pilot program should be continued,
39 expanded, or made permanent.

40 d. For the purposes of this section, “restorative justice” means
41 an approach to repairing the harm caused by a crime through direct
42 involvement of those affected, including the victim, the victim’s
43 family and friends, and the community, for the purpose of fulfilling
44 the victim’s expectations for justice while also holding accountable

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 AWC committee amendments adopted February 23, 2021.

1 the person who caused the harm, and which may be implemented
2 through varying formats, such as sharing circles, victim impact
3 panels, and facilitated conferences.

4

5 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
6 the filing of the report required pursuant to subsection c. of section
7 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
8 bill).