

ASSEMBLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4886

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2021

The Assembly Women and Children Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4886.

This bill requires that certain information be provided to victims of sexual assault when the victim reports the crime to law enforcement.

Under the bill, upon receiving a report of aggravated sexual assault or sexual assault, the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, the county prosecutor's office, or any other law enforcement agency involved in the case is required to make a packet of information available to the victim in electronic or paper format that includes, but is not limited to: rights and laws pertaining to victims of sexual assault; the criminal justice process as it pertains to victims of sexual assault; existing medical, counseling, and mental health services available to victims of sexual assault; any additional services available to victims of sexual assault through the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy; a telephone number that the victim may call at any time to receive updates on his or her case; and contact information for the appropriate county Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy.

The victim may elect to waive the right to receive the packet of information. In addition, the bill provides that the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, the county prosecutor's office, or any other law enforcement agency involved in the case is not to discuss or provide information regarding crime prevention strategies with an alleged victim of aggravated sexual assault or sexual assault.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 4886 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3072 (Weinberg/Cunningham), which was reported by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on December 10, 2020.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 4886 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3072 which was also reported by the committee on this date.