ASSEMBLY, No. 5086

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 7, 2020

Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE
District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Requires COVID-19 testing and data reporting in comprehensive rehabilitation hospitals.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.

AN ACT concerning comprehensive rehabilitation hospitals during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

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

1. As used in this act:

"Comprehensive rehabilitation hospital" means a facility, or a distinct part of a facility, licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.), that provides comprehensive rehabilitation services to patients for periods exceeding 24 consecutive hours.

2 a. No later than 30 days after the effective date of this act, the Department of Health shall develop standards and protocols for the testing of all personnel employed by a comprehensive rehabilitation hospital and each resident of that comprehensive rehabilitation hospital.

b. The Department of Human Services shall require and oversee the administration of coronavirus disease 2019 tests to all personnel employed by a comprehensive rehabilitation hospital and each resident of that comprehensive rehabilitation hospital , in accordance with the Department of Health's testing standards and protocols developed pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

c. The Department of Human Services shall require that persons who are positive for the coronavirus disease 2019, according to a test performed pursuant to subsection a. of this section, shall be isolated or quarantined to help reduce the transmission of infection in accordance with the provisions of section 15 of P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-15).

3. a. The Commissioner of Human Services shall require each comprehensive rehabilitation hospital to report to the Department of Health data on the number of personnel employed by the facility and patients of the facility who tested positive for the coronavirus disease 2019 and died from the coronavirus disease 2019, within 24 hours after the facility confirms a coronavirus disease 2019 positive test result or death.

b. The Department of Health shall publish on its Internet website the data received pursuant to subsection a. of this section. The Department of Health shall update its Internet website on a daily basis by publishing the latest data received by the Department of Health pursuant to subsection a. of this section. To the extent possible, the data reported by the department pursuant to this subsection may be merged and cross-referenced with the data published by the Department of Health pursuant to subsection b. of section 1 of P.L.2020, c.28.

4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire one month after the end of both the state of emergency and the public health emergency declared in response to the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

STATEMENT

This bill establishes certain coronavirus disease 2019 testing requirements for comprehensive rehabilitation hospitals.

This bill requires the Department of Health to develop standards and protocols for the testing of all personnel employed by a comprehensive rehabilitation hospital and each resident of that comprehensive rehabilitation hospital, no later than 30 days after the bill's effective date. This bill requires each comprehensive rehabilitation hospital licensed by the Department of Human Services to test all personnel employed by a comprehensive rehabilitation hospital and each resident of that comprehensive rehabilitation hospital for coronavirus disease 2019. Any employee or patient who is positive for coronavirus disease according to a test performed pursuant to this bill will be isolated or quarantined to help reduce the transmission of infection.

This bill also requires each comprehensive rehabilitation hospital to report to the Department of Health data on the number of personnel employed by the facility and residents of the facility who tested positive for the coronavirus disease 2019 and died from the coronavirus disease 2019, within 24 hours after the facility confirms a coronavirus disease 2019 positive test result or death. The Department of Health will publish on its Internet website the data received by the comprehensive rehabilitation hospital and update its Internet website on a daily basis.

This bill will take effect immediately and expire one month after the end of both the state of emergency and the public health emergency declared in response to the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.