

ASSEMBLY, No. 5543

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JON M. BRAMNICK

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Requires Governor hold public hearings during declarations under Emergency Health Powers Act.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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

1 AN ACT requiring public hearings during declarations under the
2 Emergency Health Powers Act, and supplementing P.L.2005,
3 c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.).
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. When a public health emergency declaration is issued by the
9 Governor pursuant to P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.), the
10 Governor, or a designee, shall hold public hearings at least once a
11 month in various parts of the State to provide for the exchange of
12 information regarding the impact of the declaration on the State and
13 its residents and to provide an opportunity for members of the public
14 to express concerns regarding the declaration.
15

16 2. Any extension or modification of a declaration that was
17 initially issued pursuant to P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.) prior
18 to the effective date of P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as
19 this bill) shall be subject to the provisions of section 1 of P.L. ,
20 c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill).
21

22 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
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25 STATEMENT

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27 This bill requires the Governor to hold public hearings when a
28 public health emergency is declared under the Emergency Health
29 Powers Act. The hearings will be held at least once a month and in
30 various parts of the State. Currently, the public has limited
31 opportunity to voice any concerns. This lack of opportunity to voice
32 concerns has become an increasing issue with the prolonged
33 restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

34 Under this bill, the Governor will be required to hold public
35 hearings in various parts of the State to provide for the exchange of
36 information regarding the impact of the declaration on the State and
37 its residents and to provide an opportunity for members of the public
38 to express their concerns regarding the declaration.

39 This bill will apply to any extension or modification of a
40 declaration that was initially issued before the bill's effective date.