

Title 18A.
Subtitle 8A.
Chapter 61D.
(Rename)
Student Health
Concerns
Article 2
(Rename)
Higher Education
Policies and
Services
§1
C.18A:61D-19

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 445, *approved January 18, 2022*
Assembly, No. 3007 (*Second Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the mental health care programs and services
2 offered by institutions of higher education and supplementing
3 chapter 61D of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.
4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7
8 1. a. Beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year and in each
9 academic year thereafter, a public and independent institution of
10 higher education shall ²;
11 (1)² ensure that all ²on-campus² students have access to campus-
12 based mental health care programs and services ²**[,]**;
13 (2) provide assistance and referrals to mental health support
14 services to any student unable to access on-campus services;² and
15 ²**[shall]** (3)² provide each newly-enrolled student with information
16 concerning the location and availability of those programs and
17 services.
18 b. Beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year, each public and
19 independent institution of higher education shall establish and
20 maintain, on a 24-hour basis, a toll-free telephone hotline for students.
21 The hotline shall receive and respond to calls from students seeking
22 counseling for depression, anxiety, stress, or other psychological or
23 emotional tension, trauma, or disorder. The operators of the hotline
24 shall seek to identify those callers who should be referred to additional
25 counseling services, and to provide such referrals.
26 The number for the hotline shall be posted in each dormitory,
27 library, and student center, and any other facility or area on campus
28 that the institution determines to be appropriate.

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 AHI committee amendments adopted December 14, 2020.
²Assembly floor amendments adopted January 11, 2021.

1 c. The operators of the hotline shall be, to the greatest extent
2 possible, persons who by experience or education are (1) familiar with
3 the emotional and psychological tensions, depressions, and anxieties
4 unique to higher education students; or (2) trained to provide
5 counseling services involving substance abuse, personal stress
6 management, and other emotional or psychological disorders or
7 conditions which may be likely to adversely affect the well-being of
8 students.

9 ¹d. An institution of higher education may satisfy the hotline
10 requirement established pursuant to subsection b. of this section by
11 providing each student with the hotline number for the National
12 Suicide Prevention ²[Hotline or] Lifeline,² the NJ Hopeline ², or any
13 24/7 mental health hotline deemed appropriate by the Secretary of
14 Higher Education² . In addition to providing students with the hotline
15 numbers, the institution shall post the hotline numbers in each
16 dormitory, library, and student center, and any other facility or area on
17 campus that the institution determines to be appropriate.¹

18
19 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
20 the 2021-2022 academic year.

21
22
23
24
25 Requires institutions of higher education to provide students with
26 access to mental health care programs and services and to establish
27 a hotline to provide information concerning the availability of those
28 services.