

SENATE, No. 319

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator RONALD L. RICE

District 28 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes requirements for conducting health impact assessments of pending legislation; makes an appropriation.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Committee with technical review.



1 **AN ACT** concerning review of the estimated health effects of
2 pending legislation, supplementing chapter 13F of Title 52 of the
3 Revised Statutes, and making an appropriation.

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

7
8 1. a. The Planning Healthy Communities Initiative of the
9 Rutgers University Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and
10 Public Policy and Rutgers Biomedical and Health Services, or a
11 successor entity as may be jointly designated by the President of the
12 Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the
13 General Assembly, and the Minority Leader of the General
14 Assembly, shall prepare a health impact assessment on a specific
15 legislative bill when so requested by a majority of the legislative
16 committee considering that bill.

17 b. A legislative committee requesting a health impact
18 assessment shall set a time limit of up to 30 days for completion of
19 the health impact assessment. The legislative committee shall
20 specify, but not limit, areas of impact to be covered by the
21 statement, provided that any health impact assessment prepared
22 pursuant to this section shall include an analysis of any disparate
23 effects the bill will or may be expected to have on the health of
24 minority populations within the State, including racial, ethnic, and
25 cultural minorities.

26 c. A health impact assessment prepared pursuant to this section
27 shall be based on the best available empirical information and
28 professional assumptions available to the Planning Healthy
29 Communities Initiative or successor entity within the time required
30 for completing the assessment. In preparing a health impact
31 assessment pursuant to this section, the Planning Healthy
32 Communities Initiative or successor entity shall be authorized to
33 access any necessary information as may be held by any State
34 department, division, office, or agency or any other State, county,
35 or local governmental entity, provided that nothing in this section
36 shall be deemed to require or authorize the disclosure of any
37 personal identifying or confidential information in violation of State
38 or federal privacy laws.

39 d. The Planning Healthy Communities Initiative or successor
40 entity may limit the number of health impact assessments it
41 prepares pursuant to this section to retain quality while operating
42 within its available resources, and may decline a request for a health
43 impact assessment if complying with the request would not be
44 feasible while operating within its available resources.

45 e. A health impact assessment prepared pursuant to this section
46 shall constitute, upon delivery to the requesting committee, a public
47 document that shall be published on the Legislature's Internet

1 website together with any other legislative materials pertaining to
2 the bill that is the subject of the assessment.

3 f. The Planning Healthy Communities Initiative or successor
4 entity shall collaborate with State departments, divisions, offices, or
5 agencies as may be appropriate to identify any appropriate sources
6 of State, federal, and private funding to carry out duties of the
7 Planning Healthy Communities Initiative or successor entity set
8 forth in this section.

9
10 2. There is appropriated \$500,000 from the General Fund to the
11 Department of State, of which the Secretary of State shall allocate
12 the total amount to the Planning Healthy Communities Initiative or
13 successor entity to effectuate the purposes of section 1 of this act.

14
15 3. This act shall take effect immediately.