

SENATE, No. 57

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

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District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes provision of certain health and social services to at-risk individuals during Code Blue alert.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning Code Blue alerts and supplementing P.L.2017,
2 c.68 and Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. The Commissioner of Health shall establish guidelines for
8 health care and social services to be offered to at-risk individuals at
9 emergency warming centers during a Code Blue alert declared
10 pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2017, c.68 (App.A:9-43.20).

11 a. Services offered may include, but shall not be limited to:

12 (1) the provision of health care services deemed appropriate by
13 the commissioner;

14 (2) the administration of vaccines deemed appropriate by the
15 commissioner;

16 (3) substance abuse intervention and treatment referral services;

17 (4) mental health assessment and treatment referral services; and

18 (5) the provision of social services deemed appropriate by the
19 commissioner.

20 b. The commissioner may require training related to the
21 provision of services during a Code Blue alert as a condition of
22 registration in the Code Blue Alert Services Registry established
23 pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
24 Legislature as this bill).

25 c. The commissioner shall establish a form for identification
26 cards issued pursuant to subsection b. of section 2 of P.L. ,
27 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

28

29 2. A coordinator may establish a registry of healthcare workers,
30 social services providers, and support services personnel who
31 voluntarily consent to provide health care, social services, and
32 support services to at-risk individuals during a Code Blue alert in
33 accordance with guidelines established by the Commissioner of
34 Health pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
35 before the Legislature as this bill). This registry shall be known as
36 the Code Blue Alert Services Registry.

37 a. The coordinator may identify an area of an emergency
38 warming center as a location to provide services authorized by the
39 commissioner pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)
40 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

41 b. The coordinator may issue identification cards to personnel
42 included in the registry established under this section that:

43 (1) identify the health care, social services, or support services
44 personnel;

45 (2) identify any professional license or certification held by the
46 individual; and

1 (3) indicate, if required under current law, that the individual is
2 registered as a New Jersey health care worker, social services
3 provider, or support services personnel.

4 c. Upon the declaration of a Code Blue alert, the coordinator
5 may direct that an emergency warming center may provide services
6 in accordance with section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
7 before the Legislature as this bill).

8 d. In the event a coordinator declares a Code Blue alert, the
9 coordinator may direct health care workers, social services
10 providers, and support services personnel registered under this
11 section who are willing to provide services on a voluntary basis to
12 proceed to a warming shelter to provide services in accordance with
13 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
14 as this bill).

15 e. Health care workers, social services providers, and support
16 services personnel registered under this section may volunteer to
17 provide services at an emergency warming center during a Code
18 Blue alert in accordance with section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)
19 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

20 f. Health care workers and support services personnel
21 registered under this section who provide health care services on a
22 voluntary basis shall not be liable for any civil damages as a result
23 of the person's acts or omissions in providing medical care or
24 treatment during a Code Blue alert in good faith and in accordance
25 with the provisions of this act.

26
27 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
28 next following the date of enactment.

30 31 STATEMENT

32
33 This bill authorizes the provision of certain health and social
34 services to at-risk individuals during a Code Blue alert initiated in
35 response to certain cold weather events.

36 Under current law, each county, through its office of emergency
37 management, is responsible for establishing a plan for issuing Code
38 Blue alerts to municipalities, social service agencies, and non-profit
39 organizations that provide services to at-risk individuals located in the
40 county. The plans are required to include the provision of emergency
41 warming centers during a Code Blue alert.

42 Currently, a Code Blue alert is to be declared when National
43 Weather Service forecasts and advisories predict that temperatures: (1)
44 will reach 25 degrees Fahrenheit or lower without precipitation or 32
45 degrees Fahrenheit or lower with precipitation; or (2) the National
46 Weather Service windchill temperature will be zero degrees Fahrenheit
47 or less for a period of two hours or more.

1 This bill directs the Commissioner of Health to establish
2 guidelines for health care and social services to be offered to at-risk
3 individuals at emergency warming centers during a Code Blue alert.
4 Services to be offered may include, but not be limited to: the
5 provision of health care services, vaccinations, and social services
6 deemed appropriate by the commissioner; substance abuse
7 intervention and treatment referral services; and mental health
8 assessment and treatment referral services. The commissioner is
9 required to establish a form for identification cards to be issued to
10 those registered to provide services, and may require training
11 related to the provision of services during a Code Blue alert as a
12 condition of registration.

13 The bill authorizes a coordinator to establish a registry of
14 healthcare workers, social services providers, and support services
15 personnel who voluntarily consent to provide health care, social
16 services, and support services to at-risk individuals during a Code
17 Blue alert in accordance with the guidelines established by the
18 commissioner. The coordinator is authorized to identify an area of
19 an emergency warming center as a location to provide services
20 authorized by the commissioner and to issue identification cards to
21 personnel included in the registry. The identification cards are to
22 identify the health care, social services, or support services
23 personnel; identify any professional license or certification held by
24 the individual; and indicate, if required under current law, that the
25 individual is registered as a New Jersey health care worker, social
26 services provider, or support services personnel.

27 Under the bill, the coordinator may direct that an emergency
28 warming center may provide services during a Code Blue alert and
29 authorizes registered health care workers, social services providers,
30 and support services personnel to voluntarily provide services at an
31 emergency warming center. The bill further provides that
32 registered health care workers or support services personnel who
33 provide health care services on a voluntary basis are not to be liable
34 for any civil damages as a result of the person's acts or omissions in
35 providing medical care or treatment during a Code Blue alert in
36 good faith and in accordance with the provisions of this bill.