

SENATE, No. 66

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)

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes certification card for individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/10/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning persons diagnosed with an autism spectrum
2 disorder and supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

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7 1. a. Upon the request of a person who has been diagnosed
8 with an autism spectrum disorder by a physician, psychologist, or
9 any other health care professional licensed pursuant to Title 45 of
10 the Revised Statutes and authorized to provide such diagnosis, or
11 upon the request of the guardian or caregiver of the person, the
12 Division of Developmental Disabilities within the Department of
13 Human Services shall issue a certification card denoting that the
14 person has been medically diagnosed with an autism spectrum
15 disorder.

16 The certification card, along with the person's driver's license or
17 State-issued non-driver identification card as necessary, may be
18 presented to a law enforcement officer or emergency medical
19 service provider for the purposes of assisting the law enforcement
20 officer or emergency medical service provider in identifying and
21 effectively communicating with the person.

22 b. The certification card, issued pursuant to subsection a. of
23 this section, shall explain that the person has been diagnosed with
24 an autism spectrum disorder, may have difficulty communicating or
25 understanding directions, and may become agitated when physically
26 touched or in stressful situations.

27 The certification card shall also provide the emergency contact
28 information of a person who can confirm the cardholder's diagnosis
29 and a person who can communicate on behalf of the cardholder.

30 c. The division shall establish the documentation required to be
31 produced by a person who has been diagnosed with an autism
32 spectrum disorder, or by the guardian or caregiver of the person, in
33 order to receive a certification card issued pursuant to subsection a.
34 The division may collect a reasonable fee for the issuance of the
35 certification card, which shall not be greater than the cost to issue
36 the certification card.

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38 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
39 following enactment.

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STATEMENT

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44 This bill establishes a certification card, which is to be issued
45 upon the request of a person who has been diagnosed with an
46 autism spectrum disorder, or upon the request of the guardian or
47 caregiver of the person, denoting that the person has been diagnosed
48 with an autism spectrum disorder. The certification card is to be

1 issued by the Division of Developmental Disabilities within the
2 Department of Human Services (division).

3 Under the bill, the certification card, along with the person's
4 basic license or State-issued non-driver identification card as
5 necessary, may be presented to a law enforcement officer or
6 emergency medical service provider for the purposes of assisting
7 the law enforcement officer or emergency medical service provider
8 in identifying and effectively communicating with the person.

9 The certification card is to explain that the person has been
10 diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, may have difficulty
11 communicating or understanding directions, and may become
12 agitated when touched or in stressful situations. The certification
13 card is also to provide the emergency contact information of a
14 person who can confirm the cardholder's diagnosis and a person
15 who can communicate on behalf of the cardholder.

16 The bill requires the division to establish the documentation
17 required to be produced by a person who has been diagnosed with
18 an autism spectrum disorder, or the guardian or caregiver of the
19 person, in order to receive the certification card and permits the
20 division to collect a reasonable fee that is not greater than the cost
21 to issue the certification card.