

SENATE, No. 67

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)

SYNOPSIS

Requires State Health Benefits Commission advertise and annually review NJWELL program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the NJWELL program for public employees
2 and supplementing P.L.1961, c.49 (C.52:14-17.25 et seq.).

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 The State of New Jersey cares about employee wellness because
9 an employee's health and wellbeing impact morale, safety,
10 productivity, absenteeism, recruitment, and retention, as well as
11 health care costs.

12 The NJWELL program promotes and provides the skills that
13 people need to have healthy behaviors. The program rewards
14 actively employed members of the State Health Benefits Program
15 and their covered spouses for completing various health
16 assessments and wellness activities.

17 To encourage the participation, the NJWELL program should be
18 more widely advertised to reach all public employees, and
19 streamlined so that it is more user-friendly. A well-advertised and
20 easy to use website will encourage more public employees to take
21 advantage of the program and to participate on an annual basis.

22 b. The State Health Benefits Commission shall develop and
23 implement a program for extensive advertising of NJWELL through
24 electronic mail, flyers, health fairs, promotional videos and
25 speakers, and through any means as shall be deemed appropriate
26 and suitable to increase the utilization by members of the State
27 Health Benefits Program.

28 The State Health Benefits Commission shall conduct an annual
29 review of the NJWELL program and prepare a written report of the
30 review. The report shall include, but need not be limited to, the
31 number of persons utilizing the program, ease of use and access to
32 the website, and ease of reporting completion of the program's
33 required tasks. The report shall be submitted to the Governor and
34 the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
35 19.1).

36 The State Health Benefits Commission shall adopt, pursuant to
37 the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
38 seq.), such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement
39 the provisions of this section including, but not limited to, the
40 prescribing of administrative and notification procedures in order to
41 fulfill the requirements of this section.

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43 2. This act shall take effect 90 days next following the date of
44 enactment.

STATEMENT

The State of New Jersey cares about employee wellness because an employee's health and wellbeing impact morale, safety, productivity, absenteeism, recruitment, and retention, as well as health care costs.

Wellness programs use health risk appraisals, biometric screenings, email notifications, text messages, Internet sites, educational lunches, special speakers, and many other forms of communication to create wellness awareness.

The NJWELL wellness program rewards actively employed members of the State Health Benefits Program and their covered spouses for completing an online health assessment, a biometric health screening, and other wellness activities. The program promotes and provides the skills that public employees need to have healthy behaviors.

To encourage the participation, the NJWELL program should be more widely advertised to reach all public employees, and streamlined so that it is more user-friendly. A well-advertised and easy to use website will encourage more people to take advantage of the program, and to participate on an annual basis.

In addition, this bill requires the State Health Benefits Commission to conduct an annual review of the NJWELL program. The report of the annual review, at a minimum, will include the number of persons utilizing the program, ease of use and access to the website, and ease of reporting completion of the program's required tasks. The report will be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature.