

SENATE, No. 509

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Requires locking medicine cabinets in newly constructed homes.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** requiring locking medicine cabinets in newly constructed
2 homes and supplementing P.L.1975, c.217 (C.52:27D-119 et
3 seq.).
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
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8 1. In the case of new residential construction, a residence shall
9 be equipped with a lockable medicine cabinet in at least one room.
10 This requirement shall apply to all new residential construction,
11 including, but not limited to construction of single-family
12 dwellings, two-family dwellings, multiple dwellings as defined
13 under subsection (k) of section 3 of the "Hotel and Multiple
14 Dwelling Law," P.L.1967, c.76 (C.55:13A-3), and group homes,
15 supervised apartments, and other types of shared living
16 environments.
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18 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
19 next following enactment, and shall apply to any new residence for
20 which the initial certificate of occupancy is not issued as of the
21 effective date.
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STATEMENT

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27 According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
28 more than 183,000 people have died in the United States from
29 overdoses related to prescription opioids between 1999 and 2015.
30 Prescription opioids and other medications may pose a danger to
31 children and others for whom the medicines are not intended. Many
32 people access opioids for the first time through unlocked medicine
33 cabinets. This bill intends to address this problem through requiring
34 the installation of lockable medicine cabinets in newly constructed
homes.

35 Specifically, the bill requires that any new residential
36 construction project shall be equipped with a lockable medicine
37 cabinet in at least one room per unit. This requirement would apply
38 broadly to all new residential construction, including, but not
39 limited to construction of single-family dwellings, two-family
40 dwellings, multiple dwellings, and group homes, supervised
41 apartments and other types of shared living environments. The
42 effective date of the bill is delayed until the first day of the third
43 month next following enactment, and the lockable medicine cabinet
44 requirement would be applicable to any new residential construction
45 for which a certificate of occupancy was not issued on or before the
46 effective date.