

# SENATE, No. 525

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Revises identification badge requirements for hospital staff.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT revising identification badge requirements for hospital staff  
2 and amending P.L.1997, c.76.

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

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7 1. Section 3 of P.L.1997, c.76 (C.26:2H-12.8a) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 3. a. A general hospital, licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136  
10 (C.26:2H-1 et al.), shall require a student nurse **[or]**, nurse, and any  
11 other facility staff member to wear an identifying badge that  
12 includes, at the discretion of hospital administrators, either the  
13 person's full first name and the first letter of the person's last name  
14 or the person's full first and last name, along with the person's  
15 licensure status**[, and,]**. The hospital shall also, if appropriate,  
16 require a student nurse, nurse, and any other facility staff member  
17 to verbally identify himself by name and licensure status to the  
18 patient and to any guardian or other responsible party when  
19 necessary, prior to examining, observing, or treating the patient.

20 b. Each general hospital shall develop a transparent reporting  
21 system whereby a patient, or the patient's guardian or other  
22 responsible party, may utilize the information displayed on an  
23 identification badge worn pursuant to subsection a. of this section to  
24 file a complaint against a student nurse, nurse, or other facility staff  
25 member. This reporting system shall be designed to enable hospital  
26 administrators to authenticate the identity of a student nurse, nurse,  
27 or other facility staff member who is the subject of a complaint,  
28 prior to any referral for disciplinary action.

29 (cf: P.L.1997, c.76, s.3)

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31 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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36 This bill permits general hospitals to choose the manner in which  
37 staff names are displayed on identification badges worn by student  
38 nurses, nurses, and other facility staff. Additionally, the bill  
39 requires hospitals to establish a transparent reporting system that  
40 enables facility administrators to authenticate the identity of any  
41 staff member who is the subject of a patient complaint before any  
42 disciplinary action is taken.

43 Under current law, all general hospitals issue identification  
44 badges to student nurses and facility staff that display the  
45 individual's name and licensure status. This bill would give  
46 hospitals the option to require that the identification badges either  
47 list the employee's full first and last name, or the employee's full

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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1 first name and the first letter of their last name, along with the  
2 employee's licensure status. This proposed change would enable  
3 hospitals to protect the personal information of their staff in the  
4 event that a patient files a complaint against a particular staff  
5 member or a student nurse, or seeks to identify the staff member or  
6 nurse on social media platforms.

7 The bill also directs hospitals to develop a transparent reporting  
8 system that would enable hospital administrators to authenticate the  
9 identity of a staff member who is the subject of a patient complaint  
10 prior to any referral for disciplinary action.