

SENATE, No. 877

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires State and county correctional facilities to develop strategic plans to provide peer counseling and peer health navigator programs to support treatment of substance use disorders.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning substance use disorder treatment and
2 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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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. a. The Commissioner of Corrections shall develop a
8 strategic plan to foster and support peer counseling programs in
9 State correctional facilities to support the treatment of incarcerated
10 persons with substance use disorders. The commissioner may
11 additionally develop initiatives to provide incarcerated persons with
12 access to professional substance use disorder counseling services.

13 b. The commissioner shall develop a strategic plan to ensure
14 that incarcerated persons with a substance use disorder meet with a
15 peer health navigator to develop a plan to manage and coordinate
16 treatment for the incarcerated person's substance use disorder upon
17 release. The meeting with the peer health counselor shall take place
18 at least six months before the incarcerated person's scheduled date
19 of release from the facility.

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21 2. a. The chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of any
22 county correctional institution shall develop a strategic plan to
23 foster and support peer counseling programs in the institution to
24 support the treatment of incarcerated persons with substance use
25 disorders. The chief executive officer, warden, or keeper, as
26 applicable, may additionally develop initiatives to provide
27 incarcerated persons in the custody of the county correctional
28 institution with access to professional substance use disorder
29 counseling services.

30 b. The chief executive officer, warden, or keeper of any county
31 correctional institution shall develop a strategic plan to ensure that
32 incarcerated persons with a substance use disorder who are in the
33 custody of the institution meet with a peer health navigator to
34 develop a plan to manage and coordinate treatment for the
35 incarcerated person's substance use disorder upon release. The
36 meeting with the peer health counselor shall take place at least six
37 months before the incarcerated person's scheduled date of release
38 from the institution.

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40 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh
41 month next following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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46 This bill requires the development of a strategic plan for all
47 correctional facilities to foster and support peer counseling
48 programs in the institution to support the treatment of incarcerated

1 persons with substance use disorders, which may include initiatives
2 to provide incarcerated persons in the custody of the correctional
3 institution with access to professional substance use disorder
4 counseling services.

5 The bill also requires the development of a strategic plan to
6 ensure that incarcerated persons with a substance use disorder who
7 are in the custody of a correctional facility meet with a peer health
8 navigator to develop a plan to manage and coordinate treatment for
9 the incarcerated person's substance use disorder upon release. The
10 meeting with the peer health counselor is to take place at least six
11 months before the incarcerated person's scheduled date of release
12 from the institution.