

SENATE, No. 892

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires nursing homes to provide training to staff in behavioral health issues.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning training in nursing homes and supplementing
2 Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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

7 1. a. The Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the
8 Commissioner of Human Services, shall establish a training program
9 for nursing home staff, as described in subsection b. of this section,
10 in the care of nursing home residents who have behavioral health
11 issues. The training program shall include, but not be limited to:
12 sensitivity to behavioral health issues among residents of nursing
13 homes; information about depression and other psychiatric disorders,
14 as appropriate; and the use of medication to treat those disorders.

b. A nursing home shall annually provide training specified in subsection a. of this section to a certified nurse aide, licensed practical nurse, registered professional nurse, and other health care professionals, as appropriate, who provide direct care to a resident in the nursing home.

21 2. Pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
22 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Commissioner of Health, in
23 consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services, shall adopt
24 rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month next following the date of enactment, but the Commissioners of Health and Human Services may take such anticipatory administrative action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

STATEMENT

35 This bill requires the Commissioner of Health, in consultation
36 with the Commissioner of Human Services, to establish a training
37 program for nursing home staff (certified nurse aides, licensed
38 practical nurses, registered professional nurses, and other health care
39 professionals who provide direct care to nursing home residents) in
40 the care of residents who have behavioral health issues.

The training program would include, but not be limited to: sensitivity to behavioral health issues among residents of nursing homes; information about depression and other psychiatric disorders, as appropriate; and the use of medication to treat those disorders. The bill requires nursing homes to provide the training annually.