

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 1070**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO**

**District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.**

**District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

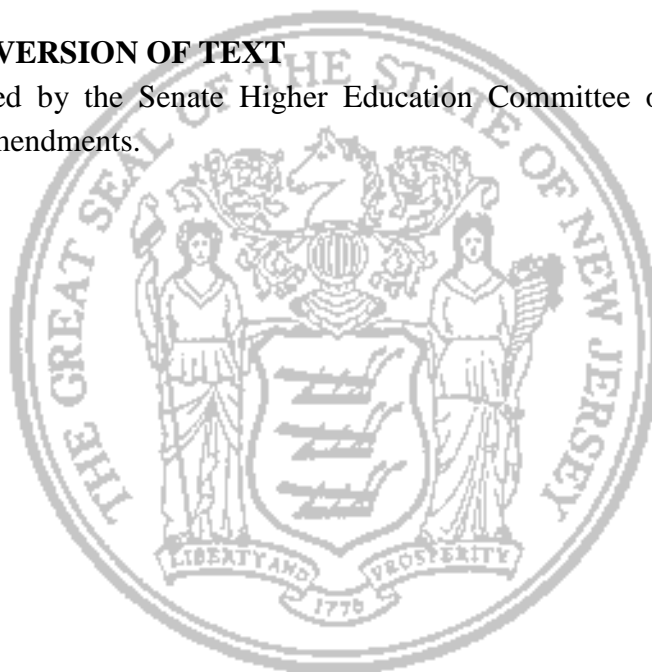
**Senators Cunningham and Gopal**

**SYNOPSIS**

“College Mental Health Services Act”; establishes grant program for public institutions of higher education and requires public institutions of higher education to report certain information concerning mental health treatment and suicides.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Higher Education Committee on October 19, 2020, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/19/2020)**

1 AN ACT concerning mental health on college campuses and  
2 supplementing chapter 62 of Title 18A of the New Jersey  
3 Statutes.

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

7  
8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “College  
9 Mental Health Services Act.”

10  
11 2. a. There is established in the Office of the Secretary of  
12 Higher Education the “College Mental Health Services Grant  
13 Program.” The purpose of the program shall be to allocate grant  
14 moneys to public institutions of higher education to improve access  
15 to mental health services on the campuses of the institutions.

16 b. A grant received by a public institution of higher education  
17 under the program shall be specifically used for efforts to improve  
18 student access to, and the timeliness of the provision of, mental  
19 health services and supports. The grant may be used for, but is not  
20 limited to:

21 (1) developing initiatives to reduce wait times for students  
22 seeking mental health services and supports;

23 (2) hiring additional mental health professionals to provide  
24 mental health services and supports to students at the institution;

25 (3) contracting with independent public or private entities to  
26 provide mental health services and supports;

27 (4) creating methods to enhance the identification of students  
28 who may be experiencing personal, school, or family difficulties  
29 impacting the student’s mental health; and

30 (5) implementing efforts to increase awareness among students  
31 of existing on-campus and community resources for students  
32 experiencing mental health difficulties.

33 c. To be eligible for consideration for a grant award, a public  
34 institution of higher education shall submit an application to the  
35 Secretary of Higher Education, in accordance with application  
36 procedures and requirements prescribed by the secretary. A grant  
37 application shall include a complete description of the institution’s  
38 specific plans and objectives for the use of the grant funds and any  
39 other information specified by the secretary.

40 d. The secretary shall establish selection criteria for the  
41 awarding of grant funds under the program. The secretary shall  
42 establish the amount for each grant that is approved.

43  
44 3. a. There is created within the Office of the Secretary of  
45 Higher Education a fund to be known as the “College Mental Health  
46 Services Grant Fund.” The fund shall be used to provide grants to

**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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Senate SHI committee amendments adopted October 19, 2020.

1 New Jersey public institutions of higher education under the  
2 “College Mental Health Services Grant Program” established  
3 pursuant to section 2 of this act.

4 b. The fund shall annually be credited with moneys  
5 appropriated by the State, any moneys received by the State from  
6 corporate donors or other private sector support, and any federal  
7 funds which may become available for higher education and mental  
8 health services and supports purposes.

9  
10 4. <sup>1</sup>a. <sup>1</sup>Beginning with the first full academic year following the  
11 date of enactment <sup>1</sup>of this act<sup>1</sup>, a public institution of higher  
12 education shall provide for public inspection on its Internet website  
13 information on:

14 <sup>1</sup>[a. the total number of students enrolled in the institution who  
15 committed suicide;

16 b. the total number of students enrolled in the institution who  
17 attempted to commit suicide;

18 c. <sup>1</sup> ] (1)<sup>1</sup> the ratio of students to mental health professionals at  
19 the institution;

20 <sup>1</sup>[d.] (2)<sup>1</sup> the total number of students who had appointments  
21 with a mental health professional at the institution;

22 <sup>1</sup>[e.] (3)<sup>1</sup> the number of students who had only one  
23 appointment with a mental health professional at the institution;

24 <sup>1</sup>[f. ] (4)<sup>1</sup> the number of students who had three or more  
25 appointments with a mental health professional at the institution;

26 <sup>1</sup>[g.] (5)<sup>1</sup> the total number of appointments made by students  
27 with mental health professionals at the institution;

28 <sup>1</sup>[h.] (6)<sup>1</sup> the average number of appointments for those students  
29 who had more than one appointment with a mental health  
30 professional at the institution;

31 <sup>1</sup>[i.] (7)<sup>1</sup> the average wait time for students to meet with a  
32 mental health professional at the institution;

33 <sup>1</sup>[j.] (8)<sup>1</sup> the number of students who were referred to outside  
34 mental health services; and

35 <sup>1</sup>[k.] (9)<sup>1</sup> the number of students who were referred to  
36 emergency care due to mental health concerns.

37 The information required pursuant to this <sup>1</sup>[section] subsection<sup>1</sup>  
38 shall be recorded for each semester and shall be posted no more  
39 than 60 days following the end of each semester. The information  
40 shall be posted on the institution’s Internet website in a prominent  
41 and easily accessible location.

42 <sup>1</sup>b. Beginning with the first full academic year following the date  
43 of enactment of this act, a public institution of higher education shall  
44 report to the Secretary of Higher Education on:

45 (1) the total number of students enrolled in the institution who  
46 committed suicide in the previous academic year; and

47 (2) the total number of students enrolled in the institution who  
48 attempted to commit suicide in the previous academic year.

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1     The secretary shall report the total number of student suicides  
2 and student suicide attempts at all public institutions of higher  
3 education combined to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant  
4 to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1). The secretary may  
5 authorize limited disclosure of the data collected pursuant to this  
6 subsection for use in medical, academic, or policy studies.<sup>1</sup>

7

8     5. This act shall take effect immediately.