

SENATE, No. 1137

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Concerns Early Intervention Support Services program in DHS and expansion of program to all counties.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning behavioral health services and supplementing
2 Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. As used in this section, "Early Intervention Support Services
8 Program" means a program that provides rapid access to short term,
9 recovery-oriented crisis intervention and crisis stabilization services to
10 an individual 18 years of age or older with a serious mental illness and
11 includes, but is not limited to, medication, therapy, and case
12 management services, which are offered at an on-site location, other
13 than a hospital, or through outreach in the community.

14 b. The Department of Human Services shall expand the Early
15 Intervention Support Services Programs currently available in 11
16 counties in the State to provide for one such program in each county in
17 the State.

18 c. Any program that is operating in the State upon the effective
19 date of P.L. c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
20 bill) and provides the services as set forth in subsection a. of this
21 section shall be designated by the department as an Early Intervention
22 Support Services Program pursuant to this bill.

23 d. The department shall coordinate with each county Early
24 Intervention Support Services Program in the State to provide for
25 education about the program, and accessibility to the program, to
26 members of the public served by a county program and to those
27 organizations or persons who may be the source of referrals to the
28 county program.

29 e. The department shall utilize the moneys available to it for the
30 program to ensure that funding is available for:

31 (1) expanding the program to each county in the State; and
32 (2) the expansion of a program in existence on the effective date of
33 this act, based on the needs of the program to provide services.

34 f. The department shall:

35 (1) collect, at a minimum, information from each Early
36 Intervention Support Services Program in the State about the services
37 provided by the program, the utilization of these services, and the
38 number of individuals who have been stabilized and referred to
39 treatment in the community; and

40 (2) issue, within 18 months of the effective date of this act and
41 annually thereafter, a report to the Governor and pursuant to section 2
42 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) to the Legislature, based on the
43 information collected pursuant to paragraph (1) of this section. The
44 report shall include a review and analysis of each Early Intervention
45 Support Services Program in the State and any recommendations for
46 improvement to the programs.

1 2. The Commissioner of Human Services may, in accordance
2 with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
3 et seq.), adopt any rules and regulations as the commissioner deems
4 necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

5
6 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the 13th month next
7 following the date of enactment, except the Commissioner of Human
8 Services may take any anticipatory administrative action in advance as
9 shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

10
11
12 STATEMENT

13
14 This bill expands the Early Intervention Support Services (EISS)
15 Programs, currently available in 11 counties (Atlantic, Bergen,
16 Camden, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Mercer,
17 Monmouth, Morris, and Ocean), to provide for one program in each
18 county in the State. An EISS program is defined in the bill as a
19 program that provides rapid access to short term, recovery-oriented
20 crisis intervention and crisis stabilization services to an individual
21 18 years of age or older with a serious mental illness and includes,
22 but is not limited to, medication, therapy, and case management
23 services, which are offered at an on-site location, other than a
24 hospital, or through outreach in the community.

25 EISS Programs are designed to provide the crisis intervention
26 and stabilization services needed to help prevent the recurrence of a
27 crisis and to reduce overutilization of hospital emergency
28 departments for a behavioral health crisis. Existing programs that
29 meet the qualifications of an EISS program as provided in the bill
30 are to be designated by the Department of Human Services (DHS)
31 as EISS programs.

32 Additionally, The DHS is to coordinate with each county Early
33 Intervention Support Services Program in the State to provide for
34 education about the program, and accessibility to the program, to
35 members of the public served by that county program and to those
36 organizations or persons who may be the source of referrals to that
37 program.

38 The bill also requires the DHS to utilize the moneys available to
39 it for the program to ensure that funding is available for: expanding
40 the program to each county in the State; and the expansion of a
41 program in existence on the effective date of this bill, based on the
42 needs of the program.

43 Lastly, the bill requires the DHS to collect information from each
44 EISS Program in the State. The information would include, but not
45 be limited to, information about the services provided by the
46 program, the utilization of services, and the number of individuals
47 who have been stabilized and referred to treatment in the
48 community. The DHS is to issue annual reports, based on the

S1137 VITALE

4

- 1 information collected, which would include a review and analysis of
- 2 the programs in the State and any recommendations for
- 3 improvements to the program.