

SENATE, No. 1469

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires emergency shelters for the homeless to admit certain persons unless they pose danger.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/24/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning emergency shelters for the homeless and
2 amending P.L.2013, c.203.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2013, c.203 (C.55:13C-2.1) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. No person shall be refused admittance to an emergency
10 shelter for the homeless based on a perception or belief that the
11 person: (1) has a mental illness; (2) is a drug or alcohol dependent
12 person, as defined in N.J.S.2C:35-2; (3) is not in compliance with a
13 prescription medication regimen; or (4) has consumed alcoholic
14 beverages off the premises, unless there is a reasonable basis to
15 believe that the person poses a danger to self, others, or property, or
16 if the basis for the refusal is otherwise authorized by law or
17 regulation.

18 b. Nothing in subsection a. of this section shall prohibit an
19 emergency shelter for the homeless from prohibiting the possession
20 or consumption of controlled dangerous substances, as defined in
21 N.J.S.2C:35-2, or alcoholic beverages on the premises.

22 (cf: P.L.2013, c.203, s.1)

23

24 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

25

26 STATEMENT

27

28 This bill prohibits emergency shelters for the homeless from
29 restricting access to the shelter based on a perception or belief that a
30 person is: (1) a drug or alcohol dependent person; (2) not in
31 compliance with a prescription medication regimen; or (3) has
32 consumed alcoholic beverages off the premises of the shelter.

33 Current law prohibits emergency homeless shelters from refusing
34 admittance to a person who is perceived or believed to have a
35 mental illness. This bill expands the prohibition to include other
36 members of vulnerable populations in need of shelter. Current law
37 also provides that a shelter may prohibit admittance if there is a
38 reasonable basis to believe that the person poses a danger to self,
39 others, or property, or if the basis for the refusal is otherwise
40 authorized by law or regulation. Under the bill, shelters would
41 continue to have the authority to refuse admittance in these
42 circumstances.

43 Finally, the bill provides that shelters are authorized to prohibit
44 the possession or consumption of controlled dangerous substances
45 and alcoholic beverages on the premises.

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.