

SENATE, No. 1596

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Testa

SYNOPSIS

Requires Sexual Assault Response Team to include person trained in interacting with persons with developmental disabilities; designated as “Harrison’s Law.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/16/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning Sexual Assault Response Teams, designated as
2 “Harrison’s Law,” and amending P.L.2001, c.81.

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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. Section 6 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-54) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 6. a. The county prosecutor's office in each county shall
10 establish a Sexual Assault Response Team or shall enter into a
11 collaborative agreement with another county to share the services of
12 that county's response team. The response team shall be comprised
13 of: a certified forensic sexual assault nurse examiner, a rape care
14 advocate from the county program established, or designated by the
15 Division on Women in the Department of Children and Families, as
16 provided under section 3 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-51), a person
17 who is trained in interacting with persons with developmental
18 disabilities, and a law enforcement official. The response team
19 shall:

20 (1) respond to a report of sexual assault at the request of a
21 victim of sexual assault pursuant to guidelines established by the
22 Attorney General pursuant to section 17 of P.L.2001, c.81
23 (C.52:4B-60); provided however, a person who is trained in
24 interacting with persons with developmental disabilities shall only
25 be required to respond to a report of sexual assault if the victim has
26 a developmental disability; and

27 (2) provide treatment, counseling, legal, and forensic medical
28 services to a victim of sexual assault in accordance with the
29 standard protocols developed by the Attorney General pursuant to
30 subsection d. of section 6 of P.L.1985, c.404 (C.52:4B-44).

31 b. Each member of the response team shall complete the
32 standardized education and training program developed by the
33 program coordinator pursuant to subsection e. of section 4 of
34 P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-52).

35 (cf: P.L.2012, c.16, s.135)

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37 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
38 after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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43 This bill, designated as “Harrison’s Law,” requires every Sexual
44 Assault Response Team to include a person trained in interacting
45 with persons with developmental disabilities.

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.

1 Under current law, the county prosecutor's office in each county
2 is required to establish a Sexual Assault Response Team or enter
3 into an agreement with another county to share the services of that
4 county's response team. Current law requires the response team to
5 be comprised of a certified forensic sexual assault nurse examiner, a
6 rape care advocate, and a law enforcement official. This bill
7 requires the response team to also include a person who is trained in
8 interacting with persons with developmental disabilities. Under the
9 bill, a person who is trained in interacting with persons with
10 developmental disabilities is only required to respond to a report of
11 sexual assault if the victim has a developmental disability.