

SENATE, No. 1788

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator JAMES BEACH
District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Requires hospitals to inquire whether patients have substance use disorder and establish protocols for providing or referring to treatment.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning hospital patients with substance use disorder
2 and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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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. a. A general acute care hospital licensed pursuant to
8 P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) shall, when providing a health
9 care service to an individual who is 18 years of age or older, inquire
10 as to whether the individual has a substance use disorder or is in
11 recovery from a substance use disorder.

12 b. Each general acute care hospital licensed pursuant to
13 P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) shall, within 180 days of the
14 effective date of this act, establish an official facility-wide protocol
15 or unit-specific protocols for providing treatment or referral to
16 treatment for patients who indicate that they have a substance use
17 disorder or are in recovery from a substance use disorder. Such
18 protocols shall, at minimum, be available to the public upon
19 request.

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21 2. The Commissioner of Health shall, in accordance with the
22 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-
23 1 et seq.), adopt any rules and regulations as the commissioner
24 deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

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26 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
27 next following the date of enactment, except that the Commissioner
28 of Health may take any anticipatory administrative action in
29 advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

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STATEMENT

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34 This bill would require acute care hospitals to inquire whether a
35 patient who is 18 years of age or older has a substance use disorder
36 or is in recovery from a substance use disorder. The bill also
37 requires each hospital to establish appropriate protocols for
38 providing treatment or referral to treatment for patients who
39 indicate that they have a substance use disorder or are in recovery
40 from a substance use disorder. Such protocols would be available to
41 the public upon request.