

SENATE, No. 1887

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Sponsored by:
Senator NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ
District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Behavioral Mental Health Advisory Board in Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services in DHS.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** establishing the Behavioral Mental Health Advisory Board
2 and supplementing Chapter 9A of Title 30 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

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

7
8 1. There is established in the Division of Mental Health and
9 Addiction Services in the Department of Human Services the
10 Behavioral Mental Health Advisory Board.

11 a. The purpose of the board shall be to review all aspects of
12 behavioral mental health services in New Jersey and make
13 recommendations for legislation or other such action as it deems
14 appropriate with regard to improving, expanding, and facilitating
15 the provision of behavioral mental health services to the citizens of
16 this State, including, but not limited to: coordinating services
17 among providers; facilitating access to comprehensive behavioral
18 mental health care and treatment; maximizing the effective use of
19 available funding; establishing new programs or revising existing
20 programs; promoting enhanced communication and information
21 exchanges; and any other matters the advisory board deems
22 necessary and appropriate.

23 b. The board shall consist of 17 members as follows:

24 (1) the Commissioners of Health, Human Services, and Children
25 and Families, or their designees, who shall serve ex officio;

26 (2) Four public members to be appointed by the Governor, as
27 follows: one person upon the recommendation of the New Jersey
28 Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies; one person
29 upon the recommendation of the National Alliance on Mental
30 Illness New Jersey; one person upon the recommendation of the
31 Mental Health Association in New Jersey; and one person upon the
32 recommendation of the New Jersey Primary Care Association;

33 (3) Five public members to be appointed by the President of the
34 Senate, as follows: one person upon the recommendation of the
35 New Jersey Chapter of the American College of Emergency
36 Physicians; one person upon the recommendation of the New Jersey
37 Association of Health Plans; one psychiatrist upon the
38 recommendation of the Medical Society of New Jersey; one health
39 care provider, upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Office
40 of the Drug Policy Alliance, who specializes in substance abuse
41 treatment; and one person upon the recommendation of the National
42 Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence New Jersey; and

43 (4) Five public members to be appointed by the Speaker of the
44 General Assembly, as follows: one person upon the
45 recommendation of the New Jersey Hospital Association; one
46 person upon the recommendation of the Advocates for Children of
47 New Jersey; one health care provider, upon the recommendation of
48 the New Jersey Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics,

1 who specializes in treating children and adolescents; one health care
2 provider, upon the recommendation of the Health Care Association
3 of New Jersey, who specializes in treating geriatric patients; and
4 one person upon the recommendation of Parent to Parent New
5 Jersey.

6 c. Vacancies in the membership of the board shall be filled in
7 the same manner provided for the original appointments.

8 d. The board shall organize as soon as practicable following the
9 appointment of its members, and shall select a chairperson and vice-
10 chairperson from among the members. The chairperson shall
11 appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the board.

12 e. The public members shall serve without compensation, but
13 shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the
14 performance of their duties and within the limits of funds available
15 to the board.

16 f. The board shall be entitled to call to its assistance and avail
17 itself of the services of the employees of any State, county, or
18 municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it
19 may require and as may be available to it for its purposes.

20 g. The Department of Human Services shall provide staff
21 support to the board.

22
23 2. No later than one year following the effective date of this
24 act, and annually thereafter, the board shall report to the Governor,
25 and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
26 (C.52:14-19.1), its findings and recommendations with regard to
27 improving the provision of behavioral mental health services in
28 New Jersey. The second report submitted pursuant to this section,
29 and each annual report thereafter, shall include a description and
30 analysis of any actions taken on recommendations included in the
31 prior year's report.

32
33 3. The Commissioner of Human Services may adopt, pursuant
34 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-
35 1 et seq.), rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of
36 this act.

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38 4. This act shall take effect immediately.
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41 STATEMENT

42
43 This bill establishes the Behavioral Mental Health Advisory
44 Board in the Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services in
45 the Department of Human Services (DHS). The purpose of the
46 board will be to review all aspects of behavioral mental health
47 services in New Jersey and make recommendations for legislation
48 or other such action as it deems appropriate with regard to

1 improving, expanding, and facilitating the provision of behavioral
2 mental health services to the citizens of this State, including, but not
3 limited to: coordinating services among providers; facilitating
4 access to comprehensive behavioral mental health care and
5 treatment; maximizing the effective use of available funding;
6 establishing new programs or revising existing programs;
7 promoting enhanced communication and information exchanges;
8 and any other matters the advisory board deems necessary and
9 appropriate.

10 The board will consist of 17 members: the Commissioners of
11 Health, Human Services, and Children and Families, or their
12 designees, who would serve ex officio; and 14 public members,
13 with four members to be appointed by the Governor, and five
14 members each to be appointed by the Senate President and the
15 Speaker of the General Assembly.

16 The members to be appointed by the Governor would include:
17 one person upon the recommendation of the New Jersey
18 Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies; one person
19 upon the recommendation of the National Alliance on Mental
20 Illness New Jersey; one person upon the recommendation of the
21 Mental Health Association in New Jersey; and one person upon the
22 recommendation of the New Jersey Primary Care Association.

23 The members to be appointed by the President of the Senate
24 would include: one person upon the recommendation of the New
25 Jersey Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians;
26 one person upon the recommendation of the New Jersey
27 Association of Health Plans; one psychiatrist upon the
28 recommendation of the Medical Society of New Jersey; one health
29 care provider, upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Office
30 of the Drug Policy Alliance, who specializes in substance abuse
31 treatment; and one person upon the recommendation of the National
32 Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence New Jersey. The
33 members to be appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly
34 would include: one person upon the recommendation of the New
35 Jersey Hospital Association; one person upon the recommendation
36 of the Advocates for Children of New Jersey; one health care
37 provider, upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Chapter of
38 the American Academy of Pediatrics, who specializes in treating
39 children and adolescents; one health care provider, upon the
40 recommendation of the Health Care Association of New Jersey,
41 who specializes in treating geriatric patients; and one person upon
42 the recommendation of Parent to Parent New Jersey.

43 Vacancies in the membership will be filled in the same manner
44 provided for the original appointments. The board will organize as
45 soon as practicable following appointments, and will select a
46 chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the members. The
47 chairperson will appoint a secretary who need not be a member of
48 the board.

1 The public members will serve without compensation, but will
2 be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance
3 of their duties and within the limits of funds available to the board,
4 and the board will be entitled to call to its assistance and avail itself
5 of the services of the employees of any State, county, or municipal
6 department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as it may require
7 and as may be available to it for its purposes. The DHS will
8 provide staff support to the board.

9 The board also will submit an annual report to the Governor and
10 to the Legislature with its findings and its recommendations with
11 regard to improving the provision of behavioral mental health
12 services in New Jersey. The second report submitted, and each
13 report thereafter, will include a description and analysis of any
14 actions taken on recommendations included in the prior year's
15 report.