

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2490

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 28, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

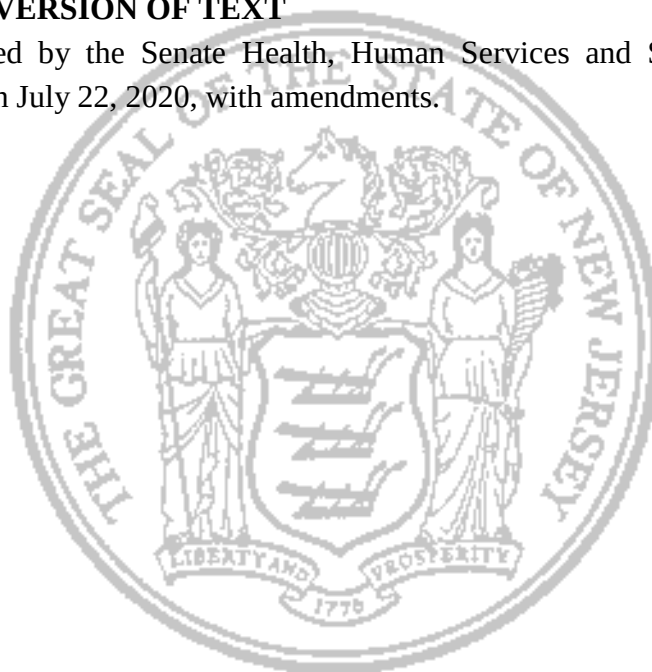
Senators Madden and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Requires health care facilities to screen health care workers, first responders, and other frontline workers for symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder related to COVID-19 pandemic.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on July 22, 2020, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 8/27/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning post-traumatic stress disorder and
 2 supplementing Title 26 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. Health care facilities licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136
 8 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) shall establish procedures to screen health care
 9 workers '**[,] and**¹ first responders '**[, and other frontline workers]**¹
 10 , upon intake for inpatient or outpatient services, for the symptoms
 11 of post-traumatic stress disorder related to the coronavirus disease
 12 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Each facility shall implement
 13 measures to avoid performing redundant screenings on a given
 14 health care worker '**[, or**¹ first responder '**[, or other frontline**
 15 **worker]**¹ , both at the same facility and at other facilities in the
 16 State, unless the individual requests a subsequent screening or a
 17 subsequent screening appears to be clinically appropriate. Health
 18 care workers '**[,] and**¹ first responders '**[, and other frontline**
 19 **workers]**¹ presenting at a facility for health care services shall have
 20 the right to refuse to be screened for the symptoms of post-
 21 traumatic stress disorder related to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the
 22 event a health care worker '**[, or**¹ first responder '**[, or other**
 23 **frontline worker]**¹ screens positive for the symptoms of post-
 24 traumatic stress disorder related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the
 25 facility shall offer to assist the individual with referrals to
 26 appropriate treatment resources and shall provide the individual
 27 with a link to the informational resources published on the Internet
 28 '**[websites] website**¹ of the '**[Department of Health and the]**¹
 29 Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services in the
 30 Department of Human Services pursuant to subsection c. of this
 31 section.

32 b. Health care facilities employing health care workers '**[, or**¹
 33 first responders '**[, or other frontline workers]**¹ who provided
 34 services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic or who provided
 35 essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic shall ensure that
 36 those health care workers '**[,] and**¹ first responders '**[, and other**
 37 **frontline workers]**¹ are provided with information about the
 38 resources that are available concerning '**[to]**¹ post-traumatic stress
 39 disorder related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including, but not
 40 limited to, employee assistance programs and a link to the
 41 informational resources published on the Internet '**[websites]**
 42 **website**¹ of the '**[Department of Health and the]**¹ Division of
 43 Mental Health and Addiction Services in the Department of Human
 44 Services pursuant to subsection c. of this section.

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted July 22, 2020.

- 1 c. The ¹~~['Department of Health and the']~~¹ Division of Mental
2 Health and Addiction Services in the Department of Human
3 Services ¹, in consultation with the Department of Health,¹ shall:
- 4 (1) ¹~~['jointly']~~ identify or¹ develop a screening tool for post-
5 traumatic stress disorder related to the COVID-19 pandemic, along
6 with guidance concerning the use of the screening tool, for use by
7 health care facilities for the purposes of conducting screenings
8 pursuant to subsection a. of this section;
- 9 (2) publish on ¹~~['their respective Internet websites']~~ on the
10 division's Internet website¹ information and a list of available
11 resources related to treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder,
12 including links to appropriate third-party resource providers, for use
13 by health care facilities in connection with subsections a. and b. of
14 this section; and
- 15 (3) provide such other resources and implement such other
16 programs and initiatives as ¹~~['each shall determine']~~ the division
17 determines¹ to be appropriate to meet the clinical needs of health
18 care workers ¹~~[',']~~ and¹ first responders ¹~~[',']~~, and other frontline
19 workers¹ experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder related to the
20 COVID-19 pandemic.
- 21 ¹d. The Department of Health shall include on its Internet
22 website a link to the informational resources published on the
23 Internet website of the Division of Mental Health and Addiction
24 Services in the Department of Human Services pursuant to
25 subsection c. of this section.¹
- 26
- 27 2. This act shall take effect 60 days after the date of enactment.