

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2492

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

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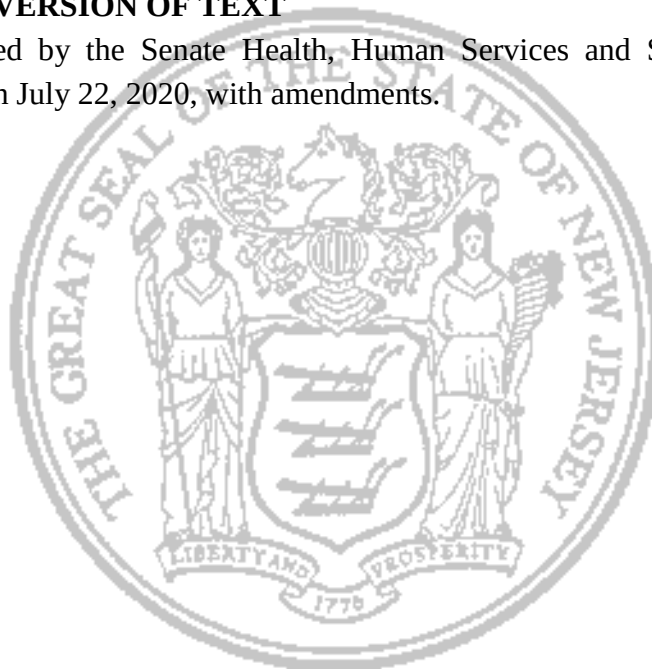
Senator Madden

SYNOPSIS

Establishes public awareness campaign concerning programs and services for first responders, healthcare workers, other frontline workers, and their families experiencing mental health issues 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: 7/22/2020)

AN ACT establishing a public awareness campaign concerning first responders, healthcare workers, ¹**and** other frontline workers **suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder** and their families experiencing mental health issues related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic¹ and supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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

1. a. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish a public awareness campaign to provide information to the general public concerning the programs and services available for first responders, healthcare workers, ¹**and** other frontline workers **suffering from** , and their families experiencing mental health issues related to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, including, but not limited to,¹ post-traumatic stress disorder ¹**due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic** , anxiety, depression, and substance use disorder¹ .

b. The commissioner, in establishing the public awareness campaign, shall develop outreach efforts and provide information to the general public on:

(1) the link between ¹mental health issues and the COVID-19 pandemic, including, but not limited to,¹ post-traumatic stress disorder¹ **and the COVID-19 pandemic** , anxiety, depression, and substance use disorder¹ ;

(2) resources for first responders, healthcare workers, ¹**and** other frontline workers **suffering from** , and their families experiencing mental health issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including, but not limited to,¹ post-traumatic stress disorder ¹, anxiety, depression, and substance use disorder¹, including the programs and provided by the Department of Human Services and other federal, State, and local social services and mental health agencies during the COVID-19 pandemic;

(3) any telephone helpline established by the Department of Human Services for first responders ¹**,** ¹**and** healthcare workers¹**,** and other frontline workers suffering from **experiencing mental health issues due to their work during the COVID-19 pandemic, including, but not limited to,**¹ post-traumatic stress disorder ¹, anxiety, depression, and substance use disorder¹; and

(4) anxiety reducing strategies and other methods to manage stress, depression, and other symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 public awareness campaign shall target the general
2 public and first responders, healthcare workers, **'[and]'** other
3 frontline workers **'[with]'** , and their families experiencing mental
4 health issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including, but not
5 limited to,¹ post-traumatic stress disorder ¹, anxiety, depression, and
6 substance use disorder,¹ through a variety of media, including
7 television, radio, print, and on the Department of Human Service's
8 Internet website.
- 9 d. The commissioner shall provide for the development of
10 advertisements, by signs, billboards, placards, posters and displays
11 placed on New Jersey Transit bus, rail, and light rail system, in
12 English and Spanish, on the public awareness campaign established
13 pursuant to subsection a. of this section.
- 14
- 15 2. This act shall take effect immediately.