

SENATE, No. 2957

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes crime for failing to disclose infection from virus associated with Coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, or related viral strain in subsequent years, when contacting first responders to request medical care or other assistance.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** establishing a crime for failing to disclose infection from
2 the virus associated with the Coronavirus disease 2019
3 pandemic, or related viral strain to that virus in subsequent years,
4 when contacting first responders to request medical care or other
5 assistance, and supplementing chapter 34 of Title 2C of the New
6 Jersey Statutes.

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

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11 1. A person is guilty of a crime of the fourth degree if, at the
12 time that the person is requesting medical care or other assistance
13 from any first responder, whether by calling a 9-1-1 emergency
14 telephone system, or otherwise communicating through that or
15 another dispatch service, or communicating directly with a first
16 responder, the person knowingly fails to disclose that the person, or
17 another person for whom the medical care or other assistance is
18 requested, is currently diagnosed as being infected with the virus
19 SARS-CoV-2 or the disease caused by the virus, Coronavirus
20 disease 2019, also referred to as COVID-19, or currently diagnosed
21 as being infected with a related viral strain to that virus or a disease
22 caused by the related viral strain in subsequent years.

23 As used in this section, “first responder” means a law
24 enforcement officer, paid or volunteer firefighter, paid or volunteer
25 member of a duly incorporated first aid, emergency, ambulance, or
26 rescue squad association, or any other individual who, in the course
27 of the individual’s employment, is dispatched to the scene of a
28 motor vehicle accident or other emergency situation for the purpose
29 of providing medical care or other assistance.

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31 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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36 This bill would create a new crime for knowingly failing to
37 disclose being currently diagnosed as infected with the virus SARS-
38 CoV-2 or the disease caused by the virus, Coronavirus disease
39 2019, also referred to as COVID-19, or currently diagnosed as
40 being infected with a related viral strain to that virus or a disease
41 caused by the related viral strain in subsequent years, when
42 contacting a dispatch service or any first responder directly to
43 request medical care or other assistance from a first responder. The
44 bill defines a first responder as “a law enforcement officer, paid or
45 volunteer firefighter, paid or volunteer member of a duly
46 incorporated first aid, emergency, ambulance, or rescue squad
47 association, or any other individual who, in the course of the
48 individual’s employment, is dispatched to the scene of a motor

1 vehicle accident or other emergency situation for the purpose of
2 providing medical care or other assistance.” The same definition is
3 used in other criminal statutes. See, e.g., P.L.2017, c.315, s.2
4 (C.2C:40-28).

5 The failure to disclose the diagnosis when requesting first
6 responder assistance would be graded a crime of the fourth degree,
7 making the crime punishable by a term of imprisonment of up to 18
8 months, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both.