

SENATE, No. 3148

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator NELLIE POU

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator T.Kean

SYNOPSIS

Establishes central registry of residents with special needs for use during emergencies.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/19/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning a central registry of residents with special
2 needs for use in an emergency and supplementing P.L.1989, c.3
3 (C.52:17C-1 et seq.).
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*
7

8 1. a. The Office of Emergency Telecommunications Services
9 in the Office of Information Technology shall establish a central
10 registry of residents with special needs who require additional
11 assistance provided to them during an emergency. The office shall
12 maintain the central registry created pursuant to this section, which
13 shall be composed of information voluntarily provided by each
14 registrant including, but not limited to, the registrant's address,
15 telephone number, and particular condition or assistance needs.

16 b. The office shall provide to each municipal, county, and
17 regional police department, fire department, and emergency service
18 organization a list of residents with special needs that have
19 registered with the central registry and who reside in a municipality,
20 county, or region that the police department, fire department, or
21 emergency service organization serves.

22 c. The office shall conduct a public awareness campaign,
23 utilizing the Internet and any other available resources, to inform
24 the public of the importance of identifying and registering
25 individuals with special needs prior to an emergency so that
26 appropriate preparations may be made to ensure that these
27 individuals receive necessary assistance during an emergency.

28 d. Municipal, county, and regional police departments, fire
29 departments, and emergency service organizations shall use
30 information collected for purposes of a central registry created
31 pursuant to this section to prepare for and provide assistance to
32 residents with special needs when responding to 9-1-1 calls and
33 other emergencies, and shall not otherwise divulge or make the
34 information publicly available.

35 e. The Director of the State Office of Emergency Management,
36 at the director's discretion, may access and obtain information from
37 the central registry to prepare an Emergency Operations Plan
38 required pursuant to section 19 of P.L.1989, c.222 (C.App.A:9-
39 43.2).

40 f. The central registry maintained by the office and any
41 information contained therein, or accessed and provided to
42 municipal, county, and regional police departments, fire
43 departments, and emergency service organizations in accordance
44 with subsection b. of this section, or accessed and provided to the
45 Director of the State Office of Emergency Management in
46 accordance with subsection e. of this section, shall not be included

1 under materials available for public inspection pursuant to
2 P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.) or P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-
3 5 et al.).

4 g. The provisions of this section shall not limit the ability of a
5 county to establish its own central registry of residents with special
6 needs who require additional assistance provided to them during an
7 emergency pursuant to section 6 of P.L.2011, c.178 (C.App.A:9-
8 43.13).

9
10 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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15 This bill requires the Office of Emergency Telecommunications
16 Services ("office") in the Office of Information Technology to
17 establish a central registry of residents with special needs who
18 require additional assistance provided to them during an emergency.
19 The bill enables residents to voluntarily register individuals with
20 special needs with the office and provide the registrant's address,
21 telephone number, and particular condition or assistance needs.

22 The bill requires the office to provide to each municipal, county,
23 and regional police department, fire department, and emergency
24 service organization a list of residents with special needs that have
25 registered with the central registry and who reside in a jurisdiction
26 that the department or organization serves. Municipal, county, and
27 regional police departments, fire departments, and emergency
28 service organizations are directed to use information collected for
29 the central registry to assist residents with special needs when
30 responding to 9-1-1 calls and other emergencies. The Director of
31 the State Office of Emergency Management may access and obtain
32 information from the central registry to prepare an Emergency
33 Operations Plan. Under the bill, the office may only divulge the
34 information collected to municipal, county, and regional police
35 departments, fire departments, and emergency service organizations
36 and the Director of the State Office of Emergency Management.

37 The bill also directs the office to conduct a public awareness
38 campaign, utilizing the Internet and any other available resources,
39 to inform the public of the importance of identifying and registering
40 individuals with special needs prior to an emergency so that
41 appropriate preparations may be made to ensure that these
42 individuals receive necessary assistance during an emergency.