[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3552

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 11, 2021

Sponsored by:
Senator RICHARD J. CODEY
District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Co-Sponsored by:
Senator Gopal

SYNOPSIS

Requires discrimination prevention training for certain providers of services to senior citizens.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on November 8, 2021, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/8/2021)

AN ACT concerning discrimination prevention training and services for seniors 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. No later than nine months after the effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), the Commissioner of Human Services or the commissioner's designee shall develop [1], approve, select, or designate[1] a training program that is designed to prevent and eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression in the delivery of services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and intersex senior citizens in the State. The training program shall also be designed to increase awareness among, and provide cultural competency to, service providers and their staff regarding the issues that are encountered by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and intersex seniors in order to both ensure equal access to services and improve the delivery of those services to senior citizens and their caregivers.

b. In [1]**[**developing the anti-discrimination training program pursuant to**]** complying with the provisions of[1] this section, the commissioner or the commissioner's designee may consult [1], contract, or enter into an agreement[1] with any [1]**[**agencies, advocacy organizations, or governmental entities**]** entity[1] as may be deemed [1]**[**thereby**]** by the commissioner[1] to be appropriate.

c. (1) Each licensed or certified provider of services or supports to senior citizens in the State, who contracts with, provides services through programs administered by, or receives funding from, the Department of Human Services, any division of the department, or any area agency on aging, shall complete the anti-discrimination training program within [1]**[**six months**]** one year[1] after it is made available pursuant to this section or within one month after commencing the delivery of services or supports to senior citizens in the State, whichever is later.

(2) Each service provider who is required to undergo training pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection shall also ensure that each staff member employed thereby completes the anti-discrimination training program developed pursuant to this section, either within [1]**[**six months**]** one year[1] after the program is made available or within one month after the staff member commences employment with the provider, whichever is later.

d. [1]A staff member or administrator of a long-term care facility may be exempt from the requirements of subsection c. of this section, if that person has received training or is required to receive training

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:
[1]Senate SHH committee amendments adopted November 8, 2021.

within one year after the person's date of hire, pursuant to section 6 of P.L.2021, c.33 (C.26:2H-12.106), and if the requirements of such training are substantially equivalent to the requirements of the training program developed by the commissioner pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

e.[1] The [1]**[**department may make the**]**[1] training program [1]may be made[1] available online, by webinar, or by other means. The department shall establish a protocol to ensure that service providers comply with the requirements of subsection c. of this section.

2. This act shall take effect immediately upon enactment.