

SENATE, No. 3749

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 11, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Senator HOLLY T. SCHEPISI

District 39 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator A.M.Bucco

SYNOPSIS

Requires State employees work in person if job requires face-to-face interaction with public; requires State agency provide alternatives if closure is unpreventable.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/11/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning in-person work for certain State employees.

2

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

5

6 1. As used in this act, P.L. c. (pending before the Legislature
7 as this bill):

8 “State agency” means any of the principal departments in the
9 Executive Branch of the State Government, and any division, board,
10 bureau, office, commission, or other instrumentality within or created
11 by such department; the Legislature of the State and any office,
12 board, bureau, or commission within or created by the Legislative
13 Branch; and any independent State authority, commission,
14 instrumentality, or agency.

15 “State employee” means any person holding an office or
16 employment in a State agency.

17

18 2. a. For the duration of the public health emergency and state
19 of emergency declared on March 9, 2020 by the Governor pursuant
20 to Executive Order No. 103 of 2020 and extended, when applicable,
21 by subsequent executive orders, the head of a State agency shall
22 require a State employee to work in person if the duties and
23 responsibilities of the State employee require face-to-face interaction
24 with the public. In-person work for those State employees required
25 to work in person pursuant to this subsection shall commence on the
26 30th business day following the effective date of P.L. c. (pending
27 before the Legislature as this bill).

28 The head of the State agency, in consultation with the head of
29 human resources or the head of personnel at the State agency, shall
30 publish on the website of that State agency a reopening plan not later
31 than the 15th business day following the effective date of P.L. c.
32 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) that details the
33 procedures and policies related to having those impacted State
34 employees return to in-person work for the duration of the public
35 health emergency and state of emergency declared, and as extended,
36 by the Governor that includes, but need not be limited to, the
37 following:

38 (1) the personal protective equipment that will be provided by the
39 State agency, the additional cleaning protocols to be implemented,
40 and the efforts to ensure social distancing at the State agency;

41 (2) the actions the State agency will take to protect State
42 employees who are required to work in locations outside of the State
43 agency office building for activities such as audits and inspections;

44 (3) the requirements that members of the public shall meet in
45 order to enter the State agency office building; and

46 (4) a description of the proper contingencies for State employees
47 who have a high risk of contracting the coronavirus disease 2019
48 (COVID-19).

1 (3) the requirements that members of the public must meet in
2 order to enter the State agency office building; and

3 (4) a description of the proper contingencies for State employees
4 who have a high risk of contracting the coronavirus disease 2019
5 (COVID-19).

6 The bill provides that if the head of the State agency determines
7 that a temporary closure of a State agency office building is
8 necessary, the head of the State agency must provide the public with
9 reasonable alternatives consistent with any federal and State laws.
10 Reasonable alternatives may include electronic or technological
11 platforms, including platforms that offer interactive, real-time, two-
12 way audio or video capabilities, or the use of a mobile unit at or
13 nearby the State agency office building.

14 Under this bill, the head of the State agency is also required to
15 report to the Governor and the Legislature not later than 60 business
16 days on the measures taken to implement the provisions in the bill.