

SENATE, No. 3883

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 10, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Crisis Response Support Program to make mental health services available to police departments responding to certain emergencies; appropriates \$2,000,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** establishing the Crisis Response Support Program in the
2 Department of Health, supplementing Title 26 of the Revised
3 Statutes, and making an appropriation.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. There is established in the Department of Health a Crisis
9 Response Support Program. The purpose of the program shall be to
10 provide support to police departments or forces in the State when
11 responding to a call that involves a person who is suffering from a
12 mental health condition or substance use disorder and is in crisis.

13 b. The county prosecutor's office in each county shall designate
14 a crisis response support coordinator who shall be responsible for
15 coordinating with the Commissioner of Health to develop
16 procedures for implementing the Crisis Response Support Program
17 established pursuant to this section.

18 c. Each municipality or county shall contract with a nonprofit
19 mental health service provider to provide support to the police
20 department or force in the municipality or county when responding
21 to a call that involves a person who is suffering from a mental
22 health condition or substance use disorder and is in crisis. The
23 provider shall be contracted to provide support 24 hours a day,
24 seven days a week. The municipality or county shall provide
25 information concerning the mental health service provider to the
26 appropriate county crisis response support coordinator.

27 d. The Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the
28 county crisis response support coordinators, shall establish
29 guidelines for the implementation of the program.

30 e. The governing body of a municipality or county shall
31 provide documentation of the costs incurred to implement the Crisis
32 Response Support Program to the Commissioner of Health. The
33 Department of Health shall reimburse each municipality or county
34 for the documented costs associated with implementing the
35 program.

36
37 2. The Commissioner of Health shall, pursuant to the
38 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-
39 1 et seq.), promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the
40 purposes of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
41 Legislature as this bill).

42
43 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
44 Department of Health the sum of \$2,000,000 to effectuate the
45 provisions of this act. The Commissioner of Health may seek
46 assistance from the federal government, private foundations, and
47 any other source to fund the Crisis Response Support Program
48 established pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
49 before the Legislature as this bill).

1 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh
2 month following enactment, except the Commissioner of Health
3 may take any anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall
4 be necessary for the implementation of this act.

5
6
7 STATEMENT

8
9 This bill establishes the Crisis Response Support Program in the
10 Department of Health to establish a mental health service provider
11 support system to police departments or forces responding to certain
12 emergencies and appropriates \$2,000,000.

13 The bill establishes a Crisis Response Support Program in the
14 Department of Health, with the purpose of providing police
15 departments or forces in the State with access to mental health
16 services when responding to a call that involves a person who is
17 suffering from a mental health condition or substance use disorder
18 and is in crisis.

19 Under the bill, the county prosecutor's office in each county is
20 required to designate a crisis response support coordinator, who is
21 responsible for coordinating with the Commissioner of Health to
22 develop procedures for implementing the Crisis Response Support
23 Program established under the bill.

24 The provisions of the bill require each municipality or county to
25 contract with a nonprofit mental health service provider to provide
26 support to police departments or forces in the municipality or
27 county when responding to a call that involves a person who is
28 suffering from a mental health condition or substance use disorder
29 and is in crisis. The provider shall be contracted to provide support
30 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The municipality or county is
31 then required to provide information concerning the mental health
32 service provider to the appropriate county crisis response support
33 coordinator. The Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the
34 county crisis response support coordinators, is required to establish
35 guidelines for the implementation of the program.

36 The governing body of a municipality or county is to provide
37 documentation of the costs incurred to implement the Crisis
38 Response Support Program to the Commissioner of Health. The
39 Department of Health is required to reimburse each municipality or
40 county for the documented costs associated with implementing the
41 program.

42 The bill appropriates \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to the
43 Department of Health to effectuate the provisions of this bill. The
44 bill also authorizes the Commissioner of Health to seek assistance
45 from the federal government, private foundations, and any other
46 source to fund the Crisis Response Support Program.