

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 684

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO

District 33 (Hudson)

Assemblywoman SHAMA A. HAIDER

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

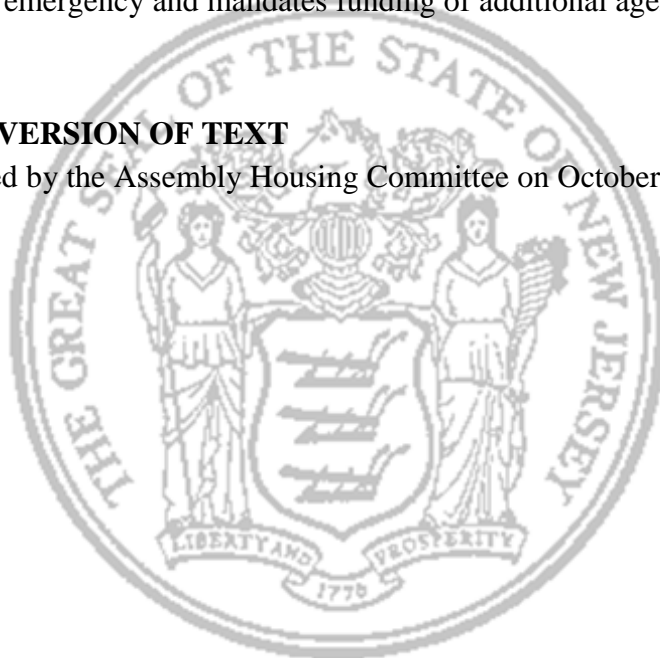
Assemblyman Atkins, Assemblywomen Jimenez, McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson, Jasey, Lopez, Quijano, Mosquera, Eulner and Piperno

SYNOPSIS

Requires Homelessness Prevention Program agencies to remain open during public health emergency and mandates funding of additional agencies in certain counties.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Housing Committee on October 13, 2022, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/15/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning Homelessness Prevention Program agencies
2 and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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

9 “Agency” means a non-profit organization in this State that is
10 responsible for administering the program in a county.

11 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Community
12 Affairs.

13 “Department” means the Department of Community Affairs.

14 “Populous county” means any county with a population of
15 ¹**[400,000]** 350,000¹ or more, according to the most recent federal
16 decennial census.

17 “Program” means the “Homelessness Prevention Program”
18 established under chapter 41 of Title 5 of the New Jersey
19 Administrative Code by the department in order to implement
20 ¹**[pursuant to]**¹ the provisions of P.L.1984, c.180 (C.52:27D-280 et
21 al.).

22 “Public health emergency” means an occurrence or imminent
23 threat of an occurrence that:

24 a. is caused or is reasonably believed to be caused by any of
25 the following:

26 (1) bioterrorism or an accidental release of one or more
27 biological agents;

28 (2) the appearance of a novel or previously controlled or
29 eradicated biological agent;

30 (3) a natural disaster;

31 (4) a chemical attack or accidental release of toxic chemicals; or

32 (5) a nuclear attack or nuclear accident;

33 b. poses a high probability of any of the following harms:

34 (1) a large number of deaths, illness, or injury in the affected
35 population;

36 (2) a large number of serious or long-term impairments in the
37 affected population; or

38 (3) exposure to a biological agent or chemical that poses a
39 significant risk of substantial future harm to a large number of
40 people in the affected population, and

41 c. has been declared a public health emergency by the Governor
42 pursuant to the “Emergency Health Powers Act,” P.L.2005, c.222
43 (C.26:13-1 et seq.) ¹.¹

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:

¹Assembly AHO committee amendments adopted October 13, 2022.

- 1 2. a. The department shall, at all times, provide funding to
2 support operations of at least two agencies in each populous county
3 to help manage and implement the program within such a populous
4 county.
- 5 b. (1) The commissioner shall require that an agency remain
6 open and available in order to serve New Jersey residents
7 throughout the duration of a public health emergency.
- 8 (2) To the extent permitted by federal law, the funding provided
9 to initially establish an additional agency within a populous county
10 pursuant to subsection a. of this section, shall be paid by the
11 department from the monies received by the State under the federal
12 “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act,” Pub.L.116-
13 136, or any other financial assistance provided by the federal
14 government to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. If
15 federal funding is not available to satisfy the full amount of
16 establishing a second additional agency within a populous county,
17 then the commissioner may notify the State Treasurer and the Joint
18 Budget Oversight Committee of the Legislature of the deficiency
19 and may request that the Legislature appropriate a portion of the
20 remainder from the General Fund, or other available State funding
21 sources, for the purposes of the program.
22
- 23 3. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations in
24 accordance with the “Administrative Procedures Act,” P.L.1968,
25 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to effectuate the provisions of
26 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
27
- 28 4. This act shall take effect immediately.