

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 3713**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**220th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MAY 2, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

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**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**

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**District 18 (Middlesex)**

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**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

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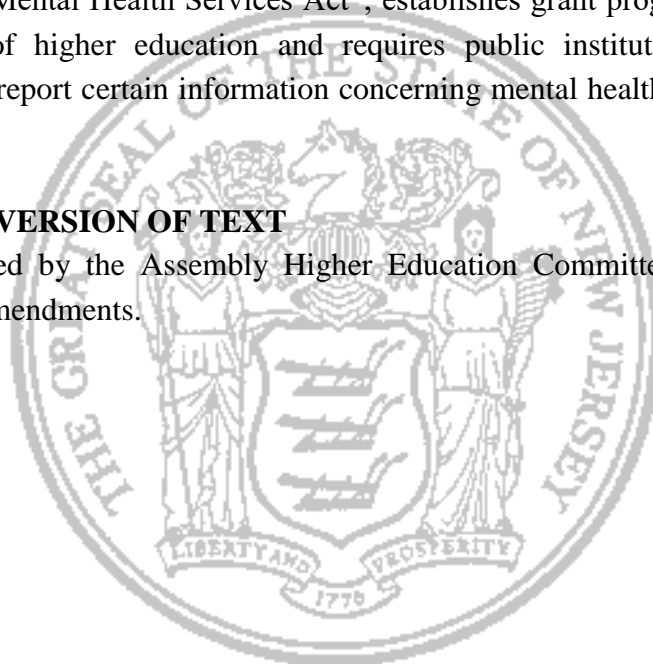
**Assemblymen Sampson, Freiman, Caputo, Assemblywomen Eulner, Piperno, Jasey, Assemblyman Mejia, Assemblywomen Jimenez, Park and Lopez**

**SYNOPSIS**

“College Mental Health Services Act”; establishes grant program for public institutions of higher education and requires public institutions of higher education to report certain information concerning mental health treatment and suicides.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Higher Education Committee on June 13, 2022, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/16/2022)**

1 AN ACT concerning mental health on college campuses and  
2 supplementing chapter 62 of Title 18A of the New Jersey  
3 Statutes.

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

7  
8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “College  
9 Mental Health Services Act.”

10  
11 2. a. There is established in the Office of the Secretary of  
12 Higher Education the “College Mental Health Services Grant  
13 Program.” The purpose of the program shall be to allocate grant  
14 moneys to public institutions of higher education to improve access  
15 to mental health services on the campuses of the institutions.  
16 <sup>1</sup>Grant moneys allocated to a public institution of higher education  
17 pursuant to this section shall be provided for a three-year period.<sup>1</sup>

18 b. A grant received by a public institution of higher education  
19 under the program shall be specifically used for efforts to improve  
20 student access to, and the timeliness of the provision of, mental  
21 health services and supports. The grant may be used for, but is not  
22 limited to:

23 (1) developing initiatives to reduce wait times for students  
24 seeking mental health services and supports;

25 (2) hiring additional mental health professionals to provide  
26 mental health services and supports to students at the institution;

27 (3) contracting with independent public or private entities to  
28 provide mental health services and supports;

29 (4) creating methods to enhance the identification of students  
30 who may be experiencing personal, school, or family difficulties  
31 impacting the student’s mental health; <sup>1</sup>**[and]**<sup>1</sup>

32 (5) implementing efforts to increase awareness among students  
33 of existing on-campus and community resources for students  
34 experiencing mental health difficulties <sup>1</sup>; and

35 (6) offering Mental Health First Aid accreditation to staff and  
36 students<sup>1</sup>.

37 c. To be eligible for consideration for a grant award, a public  
38 institution of higher education shall submit an application to the  
39 Secretary of Higher Education, in accordance with application  
40 procedures and requirements prescribed by the secretary. A grant  
41 application shall include a complete description of the institution’s  
42 specific plans and objectives for the use of the grant funds and any  
43 other information specified by the secretary.

44 d. The secretary shall establish selection criteria for the

**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:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AHI committee amendments adopted June 13, 2022.

1 awarding of grant funds under the program. The secretary shall  
2 establish the amount for each grant that is approved.

3

4 3. a. There is created within the Office of the Secretary of  
5 Higher Education a fund to be known as the “College Mental Health  
6 Services Grant Fund.” The fund shall be used to provide grants to  
7 New Jersey public institutions of higher education under the  
8 “College Mental Health Services Grant Program” established  
9 pursuant to section 2 of this act.

10 b. The fund shall annually be credited with moneys  
11 appropriated by the State, any moneys received by the State from  
12 corporate donors or other private sector support, and any federal  
13 funds which may become available for higher education and mental  
14 health services and supports purposes.

15

16 4. <sup>1</sup>**[a.]** Beginning with the first full academic year following  
17 the date of enactment of this act, a public institution of higher  
18 education shall provide for public inspection on its Internet website  
19 information on:

20 <sup>1</sup>**[(1)] a.** <sup>1</sup>the ratio of students <sup>1</sup>who seek mental health services<sup>1</sup>  
21 to mental health professionals at the institution;

22 <sup>1</sup>**[(2)] b.** <sup>1</sup>the total number of students who had appointments  
23 with a mental health professional at the institution;

24 <sup>1</sup>**[(3)]** the number of students who had only one appointment with  
25 a mental health professional at the institution;

26 (4) the number of students who had three or more appointments  
27 with a mental health professional at the institution;

28 <sup>1</sup>**[(5)] c.** <sup>1</sup>the total number of appointments<sup>1</sup>, segmented by type of  
29 service,<sup>1</sup> made by students with mental health professionals at the  
30 institution<sup>1</sup>, including, but not limited to: initial screening,  
31 individual therapy, group therapy, psychiatric services, on call  
32 crisis, and Let’s Talk sessions<sup>1</sup>; <sup>1</sup>and<sup>1</sup>

33 <sup>1</sup>**[(6)]** the average number of appointments for those students who  
34 had more than one appointment with a mental health professional at  
35 the institution;

36 <sup>1</sup>**[(7)] d.** <sup>1</sup>the average wait time for students to meet with a mental  
37 health professional at the institution<sup>1</sup>;

38 (8) the number of students who were referred to outside mental  
39 health services; and

40 (9) the number of students who were referred to emergency care  
41 due to mental health concerns<sup>1</sup>.

42 The information required pursuant to this <sup>1</sup>**[subsection]** section<sup>1</sup>  
43 shall be recorded for each semester and shall be posted no more  
44 than 60 days following the end of each semester. The information  
45 shall be posted on the institution’s Internet website in a prominent  
46 and easily accessible location.

1       **1**[b. Beginning with the first full academic year following the  
2 date of enactment of this act, a public institution of higher  
3 education shall report to the Secretary of Higher Education on:

4       (1) the total number of students enrolled in the institution who  
5 committed suicide in the previous academic year; and

6       (2) the total number of students enrolled in the institution who  
7 attempted to commit suicide in the previous academic year.

8       The secretary shall report the total number of student suicides  
9 and student suicide attempts at all public institutions of higher  
10 education combined to the Governor, and to the Legislature  
11 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1). The  
12 secretary may authorize limited disclosure of the data collected  
13 pursuant to this subsection for use in medical, academic, or policy  
14 studies.]**1**

15

16       5. This act shall take effect immediately.