ASSEMBLY, No. 4755 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

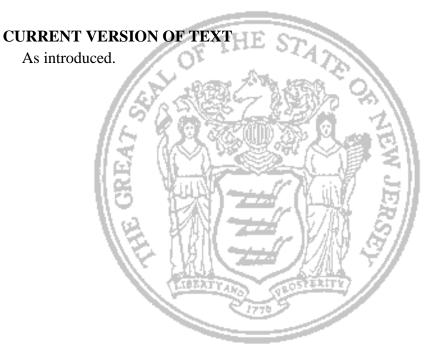
INTRODUCED OCTOBER 3, 2022

Sponsored by: Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ District 19 (Middlesex) Assemblyman WILLIAM F. MOEN, JR. District 5 (Camden and Gloucester) Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by: Assemblyman Stanley, Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblymen Conaway, Danielsen, Assemblywomen Quijano, Murphy, Assemblymen Atkins and Sampson

SYNOPSIS

Permits behavioral and mental health care providers to operate within homeless shelters.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/8/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning homeless shelters and behavioral and mental 2 health and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes. 3 4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

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1. a. As used in this section:

8 "Behavioral health care" means procedures or services, other 9 than primary health care services, which are provided by a health 10 care practitioner to a patient for the treatment of a mental illness, 11 emotional disorder, or drug or alcohol use disorder that is of mild to moderate severity. 12 "Behavioral health care" shall not include 13 procedures or services that are provided for the treatment of severe 14 mental illness, severe emotional disorder, or severe drug or alcohol 15 use disorder.

16 "Behavioral health care provider" means a provider licensed or 17 approved by the Department of Human Services to render 18 behavioral health care services.

19 "Emergency shelter for the homeless" means a building or 20 structure in which a public entity or a private, nonprofit 21 organization provides shelter, or food and shelter, to individuals and 22 families having neither a home nor the means to obtain a home or 23 other temporary lodging.

24 "Mental health care professional" means a psychiatrist, 25 psychologist, or clinical social worker licensed pursuant to Title 45 26 of the Revised Statutes.

27 b. A behavioral health care provider and a mental health care professional shall be authorized to jointly or separately provide 28 29 behavioral or mental health care services to homeless persons 30 within an emergency shelter for the homeless, in a manner to be 31 determined by the Commissioners of Community Affairs and Human Services, the State Board of Medical Examiners, the State 32 33 Board of Psychological Examiners, and the State Board of Social 34 Work Examiners. A behavioral health care provider or mental 35 health care professional may provide the services authorized pursuant to this section in response to emergencies, on a part-time 36 37 or full-time basis, and within a temporary or permanent location 38 within the emergency shelter for the homeless that is exclusively 39 used by the behavioral health care provider or mental health care 40 professional to provide such services within the shelter.

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2. The Commissioners of Community Affairs and Human 42 43 Services, the State Board of Medical Examiners, the State Board of 44 Psychological Examiners, and the State Board of Social Work 45 Examiners shall jointly or separately adopt rules and regulations, in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, 46 47 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as are necessary to effectuate the 48 provisions of this act.

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3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

6 This bill permits behavioral and mental health care providers to 7 operate within homeless shelters.

8 Under the bill, a behavioral health care provider and a mental 9 health care professional are to be authorized to jointly or separately 10 provide behavioral or mental health care services to homeless 11 persons within an emergency shelter for the homeless. 12 behavioral health care provider or mental health care professional 13 may provide such services in response to emergencies, on a part-14 time or full-time basis, and within a temporary or permanent 15 location within the emergency shelter for the homeless that is 16 exclusively used by the behavioral health care provider or mental 17 health care professional.

The bill defines "behavioral health care provider" to mean a 18 19 provider licensed or approved by the Department of Human 20 Services to render behavioral health care services. "Behavioral health care" means procedures or services, other than primary 21 health care services, which are provided by a health care 22 23 practitioner to a patient for the treatment of a mental illness, 24 emotional disorder, or drug or alcohol use disorder that is of mild to 25 moderate severity. "Behavioral health care" does not include 26 procedures or services that are provided for the treatment of severe 27 mental illness, severe emotional disorder, or severe drug or alcohol 28 "Mental health care professional" means a use disorder. psychiatrist, psychologist, or clinical social worker licensed 29 30 pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.