

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, Daniels, Assemblywomen Quijano, Murphy, Assemblymen
Atkins and Sampson**

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(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*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 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
12 moderate severity. "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
28 professional shall be authorized to jointly or separately provide
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
32 Human Services, the State Board of Medical Examiners, the State
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
36 pursuant to this section in response to emergencies, on a part-time
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.

41
42 2. The Commissioners of Community Affairs and Human
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
46 accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
47 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as are necessary to effectuate the
48 provisions of this act.

1 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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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. A
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.

18 The bill defines "behavioral health care provider" to mean a
19 provider licensed or approved by the Department of Human
20 Services to render behavioral health care services. "Behavioral
21 health care" means procedures or services, other than primary
22 health care services, which are provided by a health care
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 use disorder. "Mental health care professional" means a
29 psychiatrist, psychologist, or clinical social worker licensed
30 pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.