

ASSEMBLY, No. 4808

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 20, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE CHAPARRO

District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

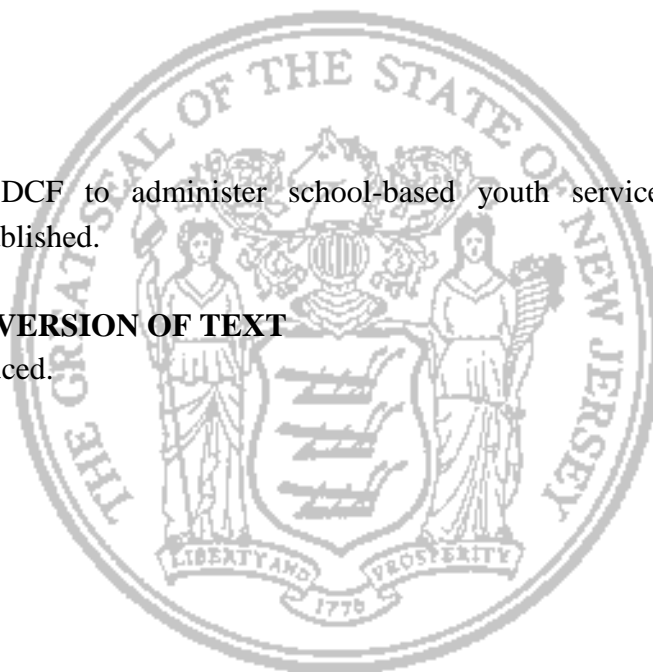
Assemblywoman Jaffer, Assemblymen Stanley, Thomson, Assemblywomen Pintor Marin, McKnight, Flynn, Assemblyman Scharfenberger, Assemblywomen Haider, Park, Eulner, Piperno, Dunn, Jimenez, Assemblyman Karabinchak, Assemblywomen Tucker, Carter, McCarthy Patrick, Matsikoudis, Assemblyman Giblin, Assemblywoman Sawyer, Assemblyman Mejia, Assemblywoman Sumter, Assemblymen Wimberly, Sauickie, Caputo, Atkins, Assemblywoman Lopez, Assemblymen Umba, McKeon, Assemblywoman Speight, Assemblymen Sampson, Spearman, Simonsen, McClellan and S.Kean

SYNOPSIS

Requires DCF to administer school-based youth services program as currently established.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning the school based youth services program and
2 supplementing Chapter 4C of Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or order to the
8 contrary, the Office of School Linked Services in the Department of
9 Children and Families shall provide school-based youth services to
10 at-risk middle school and high school students eligible to receive
11 such services. The services provided by the office shall:

12 (1) be the same as those currently provided under the
13 department's existing school-based youth services program; and

14 (2) continue to be provided in the same manner and by the same
15 agencies, organizations, and local school districts as are currently
16 under contract with the department to provide services under the
17 program.

18 b. The Commissioner of Children and Families shall enter into a
19 contract with an independent entity to conduct an evaluation of the
20 school-based youth services program. The entity shall issue a final
21 report to the commissioner on the effectiveness of the program and
22 its impact on the health, well-being, and education of the youth of
23 this State no later than six month of the award of the contract.

24
25 2. In accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
26 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Commissioner of
27 Children and Families shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to
28 implement the provisions of this act.

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30 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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35 This bill requires the Office of School Linked Services in the
36 Department of Children and Families (DCF) to provide school-
37 based youth services (SBYS) to at-risk middle school and high
38 school students eligible to receive such services.

39 The bill stipulates that the SBYS provided by the office will: (1)
40 be the same as those currently provided under the DCF's existing
41 SBYS program; and (2) continue to be provided in the same manner
42 and by the same agencies, organizations, and local school districts
43 as are currently under contract with the DCF to provide services
44 under the program.

45 The bill also requires the Commissioner of DCF to enter into a
46 contract with an independent entity to conduct an evaluation of the
47 school-based youth services program. The entity is to issue a final
48 report to the commissioner on the effectiveness of the program and

1 its impact on the health, well-being, and education of the youth of
2 this State no later than six month of the award of the contract.

3 The current SBYS program provides year-round, school-based
4 intervention and supportive services to at-risk elementary, middle
5 school, and high school students. Services provided by the SBYS
6 program include, but are not limited to, mental health, family,
7 addiction, academic, and employment counseling, conflict
8 resolution, learning support, college preparation, health education,
9 recreational activities, and community and social services referral.
10 The intent of the program is to enhance the lives of students
11 receiving SBYS and to increase the likelihood that the students
12 achieve their educational and long-term life goals.

13 Recently, the Commissioner of DCF announced that all SBYS
14 contracts Statewide would be terminated and replaced with a
15 Statewide “Hub and Spoke” service model. Under the new model,
16 the SBYS program would no longer be school-based. Rather, the
17 new model would require service providers contracted with DCF to
18 coordinate the provision of SBYS from a central location, or “hub,”
19 in each of the State’s 21 counties. Contracted service providers,
20 additionally, are to provide outreach to, instead of direct services in,
21 every school located in a county hub.

22 It is the sponsor’s intent to statutorily establish the current SBYS
23 program administered by the DCF in order to maintain a program
24 that has provided services effectively to eligible students throughout
25 the State.