

**SENATE, No. 543**

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

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Corrado and Pou**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Office of Women's Services in DOC.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT establishing the Office of Women's Services and  
2 supplementing 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. There is established in the Department of Corrections the Office  
8 of Women's Services. The office shall have all powers necessary or  
9 proper to enable it to carry out the office's duties, functions, and powers  
10 under this act. The office shall ensure that policies, programs, and  
11 services are in place and available to address:

12 a. the specific needs of female inmates in the following areas:  
13 medical treatment, including prenatal care; mental health treatment,  
14 including treatment for physical or sexual abuse or other trauma;  
15 substance abuse treatment; parenting; and child reunification;

16 b. the specific needs of female inmates who are pregnant, have  
17 given birth while incarcerated, have recently given birth prior to  
18 incarceration, or are breastfeeding; and

19 c. any other areas deemed appropriate by the commissioner.

20

21 2. a. The office shall be under the immediate supervision of a  
22 director. The director of the office shall be appointed by the  
23 Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall serve  
24 during the term of office of the Governor appointing the director and  
25 until the director's successor is appointed and has qualified.

26 b. The director shall administer the work of the office under the  
27 direction and supervision of the commissioner, and shall perform  
28 other functions of the department as the commissioner may prescribe.  
29 The director shall receive a salary as provided by law.

30 c. The director may appoint employees as may be necessary,  
31 subject to the provisions of Title 11A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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33 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the tenth month  
34 after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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39 This bill establishes the Office of Women's Services in the  
40 Department of Corrections.

41 Under the provisions of this bill, the office is required to ensure  
42 that policies, programs, and services are in place and available to  
43 address: 1) the specific needs of female inmates in the following  
44 areas: medical treatment, including prenatal care; mental health  
45 treatment, including treatment for physical or sexual abuse or other  
46 trauma; substance abuse treatment; parenting; and child  
47 reunification; 2) the specific needs of female inmates who are  
48 pregnant, have given birth while incarcerated, have recently given

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1 birth prior to incarceration, or are breastfeeding; and 3) any other  
2 areas deemed appropriate by the commissioner.

3 The bill provides that the office is to be under the immediate  
4 supervision of a director who is to be appointed by the Governor,  
5 with the advice and consent of the Senate. The director may appoint  
6 employees as necessary, subject to the provisions of Title 11A of the  
7 New Jersey Statutes (Civil Service).