

**SENATE, No. 722**

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

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator RICHARD J. CODEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Crisis Response Support Program to make mental health services available to police departments responding to certain emergencies; appropriates \$2,000,000.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



S722 CODEY

1 AN ACT establishing the Crisis Response Support Program in the  
2 Department of Health, supplementing Title 26 of the Revised  
3 Statutes, and making an appropriation.  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:  
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8 1. a. There is established in the Department of Health a Crisis  
9 Response Support Program. The purpose of the program shall be to  
10 provide support to police departments or forces in the State when  
11 responding to a call that involves a person who is suffering from a  
12 mental health condition or substance use disorder and is in crisis.

13 b. The county prosecutor's office in each county shall designate  
14 a crisis response support coordinator who shall be responsible for  
15 coordinating with the Commissioner of Health to develop  
16 procedures for implementing the Crisis Response Support Program  
17 established pursuant to this section.

18 c. Each municipality or county shall contract with a nonprofit  
19 mental health service provider to provide support to the police  
20 department or force in the municipality or county when responding  
21 to a call that involves a person who is suffering from a mental  
22 health condition or substance use disorder and is in crisis. The  
23 provider shall be contracted to provide support 24 hours a day,  
24 seven days a week. The municipality or county shall provide  
25 information concerning the mental health service provider to the  
26 appropriate county crisis response support coordinator.

27 d. The Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the  
28 county crisis response support coordinators, shall establish  
29 guidelines for the implementation of the program.

30 e. The governing body of a municipality or county shall  
31 provide documentation of the costs incurred to implement the Crisis  
32 Response Support Program to the Commissioner of Health. The  
33 Department of Health shall reimburse each municipality or county  
34 for the documented costs associated with implementing the  
35 program.  
36

37 2. The Commissioner of Health shall, pursuant to the  
38 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-  
39 1 et seq.), promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the  
40 purposes of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
41 Legislature as this bill).  
42

43 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
44 Department of Health the sum of \$2,000,000 to effectuate the  
45 provisions of this act. The Commissioner of Health may seek  
46 assistance from the federal government, private foundations, and  
47 any other source to fund the Crisis Response Support Program  
48 established pursuant to section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
49 before the Legislature as this bill).

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1       4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh  
2 month following enactment, except the Commissioner of Health  
3 may take any anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall  
4 be necessary for the implementation of this act.

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**STATEMENT**

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9       This bill establishes the Crisis Response Support Program in the  
10 Department of Health to establish a mental health service provider  
11 support system to police departments or forces responding to certain  
12 emergencies and appropriates \$2,000,000.

13       The bill establishes a Crisis Response Support Program in the  
14 Department of Health, with the purpose of providing police  
15 departments or forces in the State with access to mental health  
16 services when responding to a call that involves a person who is  
17 suffering from a mental health condition or substance use disorder  
18 and is in crisis.

19       Under the bill, the county prosecutor's office in each county is  
20 required to designate a crisis response support coordinator, who is  
21 responsible for coordinating with the Commissioner of Health to  
22 develop procedures for implementing the Crisis Response Support  
23 Program established under the bill.

24       The provisions of the bill require each municipality or county to  
25 contract with a nonprofit mental health service provider to provide  
26 support to police departments or forces in the municipality or  
27 county when responding to a call that involves a person who is  
28 suffering from a mental health condition or substance use disorder  
29 and is in crisis. The provider shall be contracted to provide support  
30 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The municipality or county is  
31 then required to provide information concerning the mental health  
32 service provider to the appropriate county crisis response support  
33 coordinator. The Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the  
34 county crisis response support coordinators, is required to establish  
35 guidelines for the implementation of the program.

36       The governing body of a municipality or county is to provide  
37 documentation of the costs incurred to implement the Crisis  
38 Response Support Program to the Commissioner of Health. The  
39 Department of Health is required to reimburse each municipality or  
40 county for the documented costs associated with implementing the  
41 program.

42       The bill appropriates \$2,000,000 from the General Fund to the  
43 Department of Health to effectuate the provisions of this bill. The  
44 bill also authorizes the Commissioner of Health to seek assistance  
45 from the federal government, private foundations, and any other  
46 source to fund the Crisis Response Support Program.