

SENATE, No. 2469

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 9, 2022

Sponsored by:
Senator M. TERESA RUIZ
District 29 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires institution of higher education to provide victim-centered training to employees who assist student victims of sexual assault.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning sexual assault at institutions of higher
2 education and supplementing chapter 61E of Title 18A of the
3 New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. An institution of higher education shall provide victim-
9 centered training to an employee of the institution who is involved
10 in the receipt of a report made by a student who is the victim of an
11 alleged incident of sexual assault, the referral or provision of
12 services to the victim, or any campus disciplinary proceedings that
13 result from the alleged incident. The training shall also be provided
14 to a student enrolled in the institution who is appointed to serve as a
15 residence-life advisor, peer advisor, or in a similar position, and an
16 employee or contracted service provider that provides campus
17 security. The training shall be provided annually.

18 The training shall ensure that a student who reports an incident
19 of sexual assault to the institution receives an appropriate victim-
20 centered response. The training shall be designed to improve the
21 trainee's ability to:

- 22 a. understand the sexual assault policies of the institution;
23 b. understand the relevant provisions of the "Campus Sexual
24 Assault Victim's Bill of Rights" established pursuant to P.L.1994,
25 c.160 (C.18A:61E-1 et seq.), Title IX of the Education Amendments
26 of 1972 (20 U.S.C. s.1681 et seq.), and the "Jeanne Clery
27 Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics
28 Act" (20 U.S.C. s.1092(f));
29 c. understand the roles of the institution, medical providers,
30 law enforcement, and community agencies in ensuring a
31 coordinated response to a reported incident of sexual assault;
32 d. provide services to, or assist in locating services for, the
33 victim, as appropriate; and
34 e. communicate sensitively and compassionately with the
35 victim of a sexual assault.

36 For purposes of this section, "victim-centered response" means a
37 systematic focus on the needs and concerns of a victim of sexual
38 assault that: ensures the compassionate and sensitive delivery of
39 services in a nonjudgmental manner; ensures an understanding of
40 how trauma affects victim behavior; maintains victim safety,
41 privacy and, where possible, confidentiality; and recognizes that a
42 victim is not responsible for the sexual assault.

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44 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
45 the 2022-2023 academic year.

STATEMENT

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This bill requires each institution of higher education to annually provide victim-centered training to an employee of the institution who is involved in the receipt of a report made by a student who is the victim of an alleged incident of sexual assault, the referral or provision of services to the victim, or any campus disciplinary proceedings that result from the alleged incident. The training must also be provided to a student enrolled in the institution who is appointed to serve as a residence-life advisor, peer advisor, or in a similar position, and an employee or contracted service provider that provides campus security. The training must include information that ensures that the student receives an appropriate victim-centered response upon reporting an incident of sexual assault. Specifically, the training must seek to improve the ability of the trainee to:

- understand the sexual assault policies of the institution;
- understand the relevant provisions of certain State and federal laws;
- understand the role of the institution, medical providers, law enforcement, and community agencies in ensuring a coordinated response to a reported incident of sexual assault;
- provide services to, or assist in locating services for, the victim, as appropriate; and
- communicate sensitively and compassionately with the victim of a sexual assault.