

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3261

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 31, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator RENEE C. BURGESS

District 28 (Essex)

Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

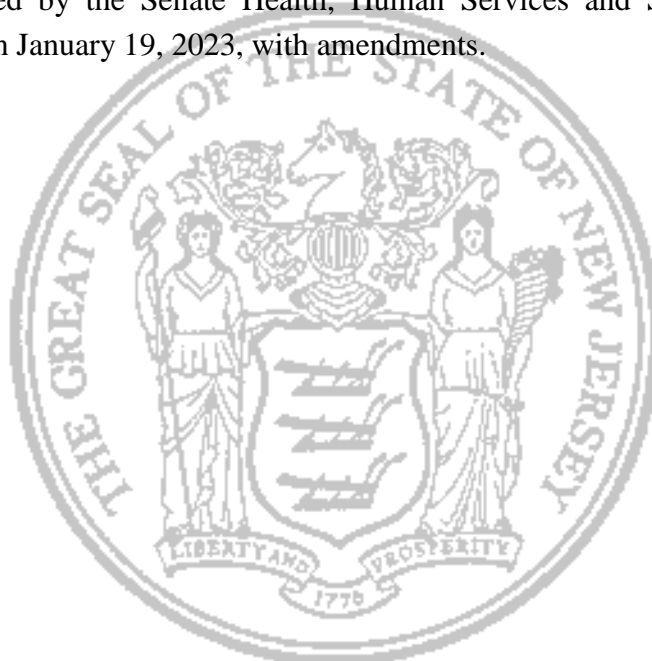
Senators Codey, Durr and Gill

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on January 19, 2023, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/2/2023)

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 ¹**[that is of mild**
12 **to 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]**¹.

16 "Behavioral health care provider" means ¹**[a provider licensed or**
17 **approved by the Department of Human Services to render**
18 **behavioral health care services]** a psychiatrist, psychiatric advanced
19 practice nurse, psychologist, clinical social worker, marriage and
20 family therapist, or any other mental health or substance use
21 disorder treatment provider licensed pursuant to Title 45 of the
22 Revised Statutes¹.

23 "Emergency shelter for the homeless" means a building or
24 structure in which a public entity or a private, nonprofit
25 organization provides shelter, or food and shelter, to individuals and
26 families having neither a home nor the means to obtain a home or
27 other temporary lodging.

28 ¹**["Mental health care professional" means a psychiatrist,**
29 **psychologist, or clinical social worker licensed pursuant to Title 45**
30 **of the Revised Statutes.]**¹

31 b. A behavioral health care provider ¹**[and a mental health care**
32 **professional]**¹ shall be authorized to ¹**[jointly or separately]**¹
33 provide behavioral ¹**[or mental]**¹ health care services to homeless
34 persons within an emergency shelter for the homeless, in a manner
35 to be determined by the Commissioners of Community Affairs and
36 Human Services, the State Board of Medical Examiners, the State
37 Board of Psychological Examiners, and the State Board of Social
38 Work Examiners. A behavioral health care provider ¹**[or mental**
39 **health care professional]**¹ may provide the services authorized
40 pursuant to this section in response to emergencies, on a part-time
41 or full-time basis, and within a temporary or permanent location
42 within the emergency shelter for the homeless that is exclusively
43 used by the behavioral health care provider ¹**[or mental health care**
44 **professional]**¹ to provide such services within the shelter.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹**Senate SHH committee amendments adopted January 19, 2023.**

1 2. The Commissioners of Community Affairs and Human
2 Services, the State Board of Medical Examiners, the State Board of
3 Psychological Examiners, and the State Board of Social Work
4 Examiners shall jointly or separately adopt rules and regulations, in
5 accordance with the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968,
6 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as are necessary to effectuate the
7 provisions of this act.

8

9 3. This act shall take effect immediately.