

SENATE, No. 3274

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 31, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator BRIAN P. STACK

District 33 (Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires Homelessness Prevention Program agencies to remain open during public health emergency and mandates funding of additional agencies in certain counties.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning Homelessness Prevention Program agencies
2 and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
8 Legislature as this bill):

9 "Agency" means a non-profit organization in this State that is
10 responsible for administering the program in a county.

11 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Community
12 Affairs.

13 "Department" means the Department of Community Affairs.

14 "Populous county" means any county with a population of
15 350,000 or more, according to the most recent federal decennial
16 census.

17 "Program" means the "Homelessness Prevention Program"
18 established under chapter 41 of Title 5 of the New Jersey
19 Administrative Code by the department in order to implement the
20 provisions of P.L.1984, c.180 (C.52:27D-280 et al.).

21 "Public health emergency" means an occurrence or imminent
22 threat of an occurrence that:

23 a. is caused or is reasonably believed to be caused by any of
24 the following:

25 (1) bioterrorism or an accidental release of one or more
26 biological agents;

27 (2) the appearance of a novel or previously controlled or
28 eradicated biological agent;

29 (3) a natural disaster;

30 (4) a chemical attack or accidental release of toxic chemicals; or

31 (5) a nuclear attack or nuclear accident;

32 b. poses a high probability of any of the following harms:

33 (1) a large number of deaths, illness, or injury in the affected
34 population;

35 (2) a large number of serious or long-term impairments in the
36 affected population; or

37 (3) exposure to a biological agent or chemical that poses a
38 significant risk of substantial future harm to a large number of
39 people in the affected population, and

40 c. has been declared a public health emergency by the Governor
41 pursuant to the "Emergency Health Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222
42 (C.26:13-1 et seq.).

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44 2. a. The department shall, at all times, provide funding to
45 support operations of at least two agencies in each populous county
46 to help manage and implement the program within such a populous
47 county.

(2) To the extent permitted by federal law, the funding provided to initially establish an additional agency within a populous county pursuant to subsection a. of this section, shall be paid by the department from the monies received by the State under the federal "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act," Pub.L.116-136, or any other financial assistance provided by the federal government to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. If federal funding is not available to satisfy the full amount of establishing a second additional agency within a populous county, then the commissioner may notify the State Treasurer and the Joint Budget Oversight Committee of the Legislature of the deficiency and may request that the Legislature appropriate a portion of the remainder from the General Fund, or other available State funding sources, for the purposes of the program.

3. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to effectuate the provisions of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

This bill requires that at least two Homelessness Prevention Program (HPP) agencies operate in certain populous counties and that all HPP agencies remain open during public health emergencies. Under the bill, "populous county" means any county with a population of 350,000 or more, according to the most recent federal decennial census.

The bill specifically requires the Department of Community Affairs to provide funding to ensure that at least two agencies are established in populous counties to help manage and implement the HPP within that populous county.

Under the bill, to the extent permitted by federal law, the funding provided to an additional agency within a populous county is to be paid from the monies received by the State under the federal "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act," Pub.L.116-136, or any other financial assistance provided by the federal government to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. If federal funding is not available to satisfy the full amount of establishing a second agency within a populous county, then the Commissioner of Community Affairs is permitted to notify the State Treasurer and the Joint Budget Oversight Committee of the

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- 1 Legislature of the deficiency and to request that the Legislature
- 2 appropriate a portion of the remainder from the General Fund, or
- 3 other available State funding sources.