

[First Reprint]

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 provides for funding of each agency.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee on January 12, 2023, with amendments.



1 AN ACT concerning Homelessness Prevention Program agencies
2 and supplementing Title 52 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. 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.).

43

44 2. a. The department shall, at all times, provide funding to
45 support operations of ¹**[at least two agencies]** one agency¹ in each

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:

¹Senate SCU committee amendments adopted January 12, 2023.

1 populous county to help manage and implement the program within
2 such a populous county.

3 b. (1) The commissioner shall require that an agency remain
4 open and available in order to serve New Jersey residents
5 throughout the duration of a public health emergency.

6 (2) ¹【To the extent permitted by federal law, the funding
7 provided to initially establish an additional agency within a
8 populous county pursuant to subsection a. of this section, shall be
9 paid by the department from the monies received by the State under
10 the federal “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act,”
11 Pub.L.116-136, or any other financial assistance provided by the
12 federal government to address the impact of the COVID-19
13 pandemic.】¹ If federal funding ¹intended to address the impact of
14 the COVID-19 pandemic¹ is not available to satisfy the full amount
15 of establishing ¹【a second additional】 this¹ agency within a
16 populous county, then the commissioner may notify the State
17 Treasurer and the Joint Budget Oversight Committee of the
18 Legislature of the deficiency and may request that the Legislature
19 appropriate a portion of the remainder from the General Fund, or
20 other available State funding sources, for the purposes of the
21 program.
22

23 3. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations in
24 accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
25 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) to effectuate the provisions of
26 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
27

28 4. This act shall take effect immediately.