

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3736

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 30, 2023

Sponsored by:

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

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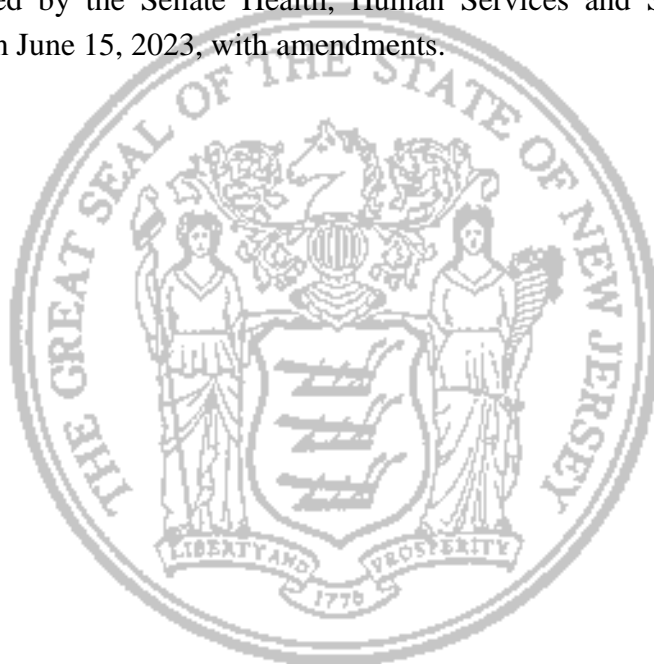
Senator Diegnan

SYNOPSIS

Establishes one-year pilot program for certain persons with disabilities; appropriates up to \$85,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on June 15, 2023, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/15/2023)

1 AN ACT establishing a one-year pilot program for certain persons
 2 with disabilities and making an appropriation.

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 act:

8 “Direct support professional” means an individual who provides
 9 direct, non-medical supportive assistance, on a daily basis, to a
 10 person who has an intellectual or a developmental disability, with
 11 the aim of helping the person to: (1) become better integrated into
 12 the community or the least restrictive environment; (2) more
 13 effectively understand, communicate, and advocate for, the person’s
 14 individual needs and desires; (3) identify and participate in positive
 15 employment, job coaching, and training opportunities; (4) make
 16 informed choices, and better understand the options and possible
 17 consequences of choices relating to physical health, safety, and
 18 emotional well-being; (5) address challenging behaviors through a
 19 person-centered approach; (6) successfully engage in the basic
 20 activities of daily living; (7) identify and participate in activities
 21 that promote a healthy lifestyle; and (8) otherwise lead a self-
 22 directed and autonomous life.

23 b. There is established a one-year pilot program for persons
 24 with disabilities in the Department of Human Services to address
 25 social and community inclusion needs for such individuals through
 26 recreational, social, vocational, and other community-based
 27 activities. The purpose of the pilot program shall be to:

- 28 (1) create a vocational program for individuals with disabilities;
 29 (2) provide individuals with disabilities opportunities to learn
 30 recreational, social, and vocational skills;
 31 (3) provide individuals with disabilities the ability to engage in
 32 recreational, social, and vocational activities in order to develop
 33 relationships within the community; and
 34 (4) provide individuals with disabilities the opportunity to
 35 explore their interests and build confidence in their abilities.

36 c. The pilot program shall:

- 37 (1) select one or more direct support professionals, who possess
 38 training tailored to the specific needs of ¹program¹ participants ¹**[in**
 39 **the program]**¹, to assist these individuals with social, vocational,
 40 and recreational activities and skills;
 41 (2) select ¹at least¹ three ¹**[or more]** program¹ participants ¹**[in**
 42 **the program]**¹ who are currently receiving services funded by the
 43 Department of Human Services and who:
 44 (a) are diagnosed with an intellectual or developmental
 45 disability and ¹are¹ between the ages 21 and 30;

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 SHH committee amendments adopted June 15, 2023.

1 (b) do not exhibit aggressive or self-injurious behavior;
2 (c) are not diagnosed with both a mental illness and an
3 intellectual or a developmental disability; and

4 (d) express interest in achieving personal, recreational, social,
5 and vocational development;

6 (3) provide 'program' participants a minimum of six hours of
7 weekly recreational, social, and vocational development 'activities'
8 that shall include, but shall not be limited to:

9 (a) educational-based courses that expand 'program'
10 participants' vocational skills;

11 (b) soft skill development in the form of workshops that teach
12 communication, teamwork, problem solving, and ethics;

13 (c) pairing 'program' participants with mentors who offer
14 support and guidance to 'program' participants throughout the pilot
15 program;

16 (d) various recreational and social activities for 'program'
17 participants; and

18 (e) opportunities for 'program' participants to volunteer in the
19 community;

20 (4) collect data on a regular basis regarding '[the] program
21 participants' development '[of the participants]' ; and

22 (5) provide quarterly progress reports, and a final, year-end
23 report to '[participants'] the' parents or guardians 'of program
24 participants, if the parent is the program participant's legal guardian
25 or the program participant otherwise consents to release such
26 information to the parent' .

27 d. (1) The Commissioner of Human Services shall select an
28 independent entity with expertise in evaluating vocational programs
29 to evaluate the pilot program at the conclusion of the program. The
30 evaluation shall assess the progress and satisfaction of the
31 'program' participants and analyze the budget of the pilot program.
32 The evaluation shall be submitted to the Governor and Legislature
33 in conjunction with the report prepared by the Commissioner of
34 Human Services as required pursuant to paragraph (2) of this
35 subsection.

36 (2) '[The] No later than three months following the completion
37 of the pilot program, the' Commissioner of Human Services shall
38 prepare and submit a report to the Governor, and '[the
39 Legislature]' , pursuant to section 2 of 2 P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
40 19.1), 'to the Legislature,' which 'report' shall contain information
41 necessary to assess the success and budgetary needs of the pilot
42 program '[no later than three months following the completion of
43 the pilot program] Any information included in the report
44 concerning program participants shall be de-identified' .

45

46 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
47 Department of Human Services such sums as may be necessary to

1 effectuate the purposes of this act, but not to exceed \$85,000, as
2 shall be determined by the Commissioner of Human Services ¹and
3 subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget
4 and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury¹ .
5

6 3. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
7 the submission of the Commissioner of Human Services's report as
8 required pursuant to paragraph (2) of subsection d. of section 1 of
9 this act.