

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1657**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**221st LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

**District 29 (Essex and Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

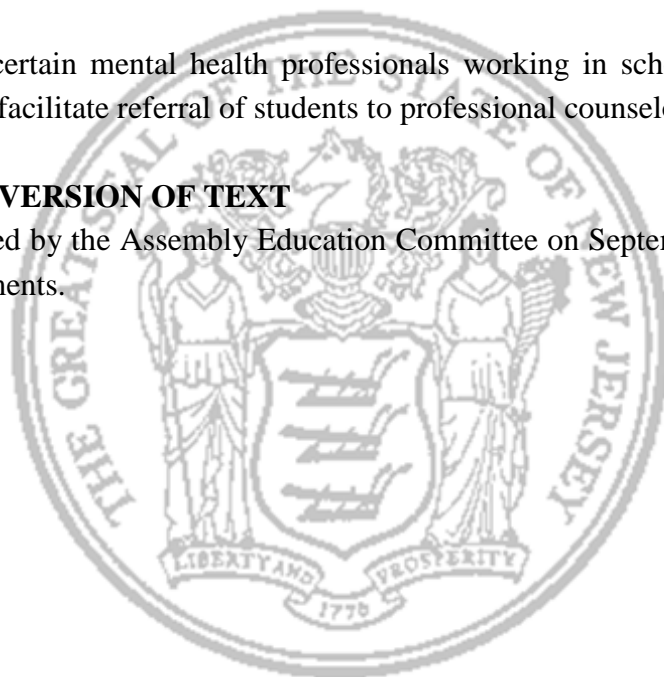
**Assemblymen Verrelli, Stanley, Wimberly, Assemblywomen Lopez, Matsikoudis, Assemblyman Sampson, Assemblywoman Bagolie, Assemblyman Freiman, Assemblywoman Drulis, Assemblyman Rodriguez, Assemblywomen Donlon, Peterpaul and Reynolds-Jackson**

**SYNOPSIS**

Permits certain mental health professionals working in school districts to refer or help facilitate referral of students to professional counselors.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Education Committee on September 19, 2024, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/19/2024)**

1 AN ACT concerning mental health services for public school  
2 students and supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New  
3 Jersey Statutes.

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

7  
8 1. A student assistance coordinator, school counselor, or school  
9 psychologist or other mental health professional working in a school  
10 district may refer, or help facilitate the referral of, a student to <sup>1</sup>**[a**  
11 private] an<sup>1</sup> individual <sup>1</sup>or practice<sup>1</sup> licensed to provide professional  
12 counseling under Title 45 of the Revised Statutes, for mental health  
13 assessments and services. A student assistance coordinator, school  
14 counselor, or school psychologist or other mental health professional  
15 working in a school district shall not refer a student to <sup>1</sup>**[a private] an**<sup>1</sup>  
16 individual <sup>1</sup>or practice<sup>1</sup> licensed to provide professional counseling if  
17 the student assistance coordinator, school counselor, or school  
18 psychologist or other mental health professional, or that individual's  
19 immediate family, or that individual in combination with the  
20 individual's immediate family has a significant beneficial interest in or  
21 with the <sup>1</sup>**[private]**<sup>1</sup> individual <sup>1</sup>or practice<sup>1</sup> licensed to provide  
22 professional counseling. If a student is not legally permitted to  
23 consent <sup>1</sup>**[on his own]**<sup>1</sup> to the mental health assessments and services,  
24 the student's parent or guardian shall be notified of, and consent to, the  
25 referral or the facilitation of a referral prior to the provision of any  
26 assessment or service by the licensed <sup>1</sup>**[private]**<sup>1</sup> individual <sup>1</sup>or  
27 practice<sup>1</sup>.

28 In the case of a referral or a facilitation of a referral pursuant to this  
29 section, neither the school district nor the individual referring or  
30 facilitating the referral shall bear the cost of the assessments or  
31 services provided to the student.

32 This section shall not be construed to limit a school district's  
33 authority to provide mental health assessments and services to a  
34 student prior to or after a referral or the facilitation of a referral has  
35 been made to <sup>1</sup>**[a private] an**<sup>1</sup> individual <sup>1</sup>or practice<sup>1</sup> licensed to  
36 provide professional counseling under Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

37  
38 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

**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:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly AED committee amendments adopted September 19, 2024.