

SENATE, No. 715

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator RENEE C. BURGESS

District 28 (Essex and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Requires AG to establish rape kit tracking system.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



S715 BURGESS

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1 AN ACT concerning sexual assault forensic evidence kits and
2 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. a. The Attorney General shall establish a Statewide sexual
8 assault forensic evidence kit tracking system. The Attorney
9 General shall issue guidelines or a directive establishing the system.

10 b. As used in this section, “sexual assault forensic evidence kit
11 tracking system” means an Internet-based system that allows a
12 person, including a victim; a State, county, or municipal law
13 enforcement officer; an employee of a healthcare facility or
14 laboratory, as deemed appropriate by the Attorney General; and any
15 other person, as deemed appropriate by the Attorney General, to
16 track a sexual assault forensic evidence kit through the chain of
17 custody from the time of collection at a healthcare facility to the
18 transfer to a local law enforcement agency, submission to an
19 appropriate laboratory for processing and testing, and final
20 disposition.

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22 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh
23 month after enactment, but the Attorney General may take any
24 administrative action in advance as shall be necessary to implement
25 the provisions of this act.

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STATEMENT

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30 This bill requires the Attorney General to establish a sexual
31 assault forensic evidence (SAFE) kit, commonly referred to as a
32 rape kit, tracking system.

33 Under the bill, the Attorney General is to issue guidelines or a
34 directive establishing the system.

35 The bill defines a “sexual assault forensic evidence kit tracking
36 system” as an Internet-based system that allows a person, including
37 a victim; a State, county, or municipal law enforcement officer; an
38 employee of a healthcare facility or laboratory, as deemed
39 appropriate by the Attorney General; and any other person, as
40 deemed appropriate by the Attorney General, to track a sexual
41 assault forensic evidence kit through the chain of custody from the
42 time of collection at a healthcare facility to the transfer to a local
43 law enforcement agency, submission to a laboratory, and final
44 disposition.