

SENATE, No. 1207

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Senator MICHAEL L. TESTA, JR.

District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Greenstein and McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Requires Sexual Assault Response Team to include person trained in interacting with persons with developmental disabilities; designated as “Harrison’s Law.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/7/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning Sexual Assault Response Teams, designated as
2 “Harrison’s Law,” and amending P.L.2001, c.81.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 6 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-54) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 6. a. The county prosecutor's office in each county shall
10 establish a Sexual Assault Response Team or shall enter into a
11 collaborative agreement with another county to share the services of
12 that county's response team. The response team shall be comprised
13 of: a certified forensic sexual assault nurse examiner, a rape care
14 advocate from the county program established, or designated by the
15 Division on Women in the Department of Children and Families, as
16 provided under section 3 of P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-51), a person
17 who is trained in interacting with persons with developmental
18 disabilities, and a law enforcement official. The response team
19 shall:

20 (1) respond to a report of sexual assault at the request of a
21 victim of sexual assault pursuant to guidelines established by the
22 Attorney General pursuant to section 17 of P.L.2001, c.81
23 (C.52:4B-60); provided however, a person who is trained in
24 interacting with persons with developmental disabilities shall only
25 be required to respond to a report of sexual assault if the victim has
26 a developmental disability; and

27 (2) provide treatment, counseling, legal, and forensic medical
28 services to a victim of sexual assault in accordance with the
29 standard protocols developed by the Attorney General pursuant to
30 subsection d. of section 6 of P.L.1985, c.404 (C.52:4B-44).

31 b. Each member of the response team shall complete the
32 standardized education and training program developed by the
33 program coordinator pursuant to subsection e. of section 4 of
34 P.L.2001, c.81 (C.52:4B-52).
35 (cf: P.L.2012, c.16, s.135)

36

37 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
38 after enactment.

39

40

41

STATEMENT

42

43 This bill, designated as “Harrison’s Law,” requires every Sexual
44 Assault Response Team to include a person trained in interacting
45 with persons with developmental disabilities.

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.

S1207 BEACH, TESTA

1 Under current law, the county prosecutor's office in each county
2 is required to establish a Sexual Assault Response Team or enter
3 into an agreement with another county to share the services of that
4 county's response team. Current law requires the response team to
5 be comprised of a certified forensic sexual assault nurse examiner, a
6 rape care advocate, and a law enforcement official. This bill
7 requires the response team to also include a person who is trained in
8 interacting with persons with developmental disabilities. Under the
9 bill, a person who is trained in interacting with persons with
10 developmental disabilities is only required to respond to a report of
11 sexual assault if the victim has a developmental disability.