

SENATE, No. 4607

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator RAJ MUKHERJI
District 32 (Hudson)
Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE
District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS
Expands role and reach of Regional Hub Program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the Regional Hub Program and amending
2 P.L.2019, c.517.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. Section 3 of P.L.2019, c.517 (C.30:4D-8.18) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 3. a. The Department of Human Services shall establish a
10 Regional Health Hub Program, and shall designate Regional Health
11 Hubs in appropriate areas of the State, as provided by **[this act]**
12 P.L.2019, c.517 (C.30:4D-8.16 et seq.) and including at least one
13 area located in Hudson county. The Regional Health Hub Program
14 shall replace the Medicaid Accountable Care Organization
15 Demonstration Project established pursuant to P.L.2011, c.114
16 (C.30:4D-8.1 et seq.), which is now subject to expiration by law.

17 b. The following certified accountable care organizations and
18 accountable care look-alike organizations, which are operating in
19 this State as of the effective date of this act, shall be grandfathered
20 into the Regional Health Hub Program, and shall be automatically
21 designated as Regional Health Hubs, for the purposes of **[this act]**
22 P.L.2019, c.517 (C.30:4D-8.16 et seq.):

- 23 (1) the Healthy Greater Newark ACO;
24 (2) the Trenton Health Team;
25 (3) the Camden Coalition of Health Care Providers; and
26 (4) the Health Coalition of Passaic County.

27 c. The Department of Human Services, in consultation with the
28 Department of Health, shall be authorized to designate additional
29 non-profit organizations to operate as Regional Health Hubs under
30 the Regional Health Hub Program, pursuant to section 4 of **[this**
31 **act]** P.L.2019, c.517 (C.30:4D-8.19), as determined to be
32 appropriate.

33 (cf: P.L.2019, c.517, s.3)

34
35 2. Section 6 of P.L.2019, c.517 (C.30:4D-8.21) is amended to
36 read as follows:

37 6. a. Each designated Regional Health Hub shall engage in the
38 following mandatory activities:

- 39 (1) establish, operate, and maintain a health information
40 platform that allows for population-level views and analytics, and
41 patient-level health interventions. Unless annually exempted by the
42 commissioner, each Regional Health Hub's health information
43 platform shall, to the extent practicable, be interoperable with all
44 other Regional Health Hubs' platforms, and with any other

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.

1 Statewide health information platform designated by the
2 commissioner;

3 (2) convene and obtain relevant input from community
4 stakeholders within the Regional Health Hub's core region. At a
5 minimum, convening activities shall include quarterly opportunities
6 for the active engagement and interaction of relevant stakeholders,
7 including, but not limited to, managed care organizations, local and
8 State government entities, health care and social service providers,
9 community-based organizations, and local consumers of health
10 care;

11 (3) upon request, provide the department and other State
12 agencies, including the Departments of Health, Children and
13 Families, and Community Affairs, with information and feedback to
14 assist the departments in program design, population analysis,
15 strategic planning, and other appropriate functions; **[and]**

16 (4) engage in any other activity that the commissioner deems
17 necessary to achieve the goals of **[this act]** P.L.2019, c.517
18 (C.30:4D-8.16 et seq.); and

19 (5) assume oversight and coordination responsibilities focused
20 on transparency, accountability, regional evaluation, and healthcare
21 access coordination related to hospitals receiving charity care
22 funding within each region. Such responsibilities shall include, but
23 not be limited to:

24 (a) evaluating regional healthcare needs and identifying gaps in
25 access to care;

26 (b) analyzing charity care utilization trends such as demographic
27 and zip code-level data;

28 (c) reviewing regional disparities;

29 (d) evaluating appointment wait times and other barriers to
30 timely care;

31 (e) assessing relevant health outcome trends; and

32 (f) reporting any findings to the Department of Health.

33 Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as authorizing a
34 Regional Health Hub to serve as a fiscal intermediary,
35 administrator, or distributor of charity care funding or as altering
36 the funding mechanism for charity care payments pursuant to
37 P.L.1992, c.160 (C.26:2H-18.51 et al.).

38 b. Each designated Regional Health Hub shall be authorized to
39 engage in the following activities as necessary either to further the
40 Regional Health Hub's goals or to comport with the provisions of
41 the proposal submitted by the Regional Health Hub to the
42 department pursuant to section 7 of **[this act]** P.L.2019, c.517
43 (C.30:4D-8.16 et seq.):

44 (1) plan and execute population-level and patient-level health
45 interventions;

46 (2) establish, operate, and maintain, or partner with a third-party
47 who will establish, operate, and maintain, a community resource

1 inventory that is capable of referring and tracking the referral of
2 community members to appropriate services;

3 (3) perform a health needs assessment on all or part of the
4 population in the Regional Health Hub's core region;

5 (4) perform quality improvement activities based on population-
6 level data and health needs assessment findings;

7 (5) develop screening protocols that provide for a
8 comprehensive risk assessment to determine a patient's need for
9 follow-up and wrap-around services related to the social
10 determinants of health;

11 (6) facilitate the coordination, within the Regional Health Hub's
12 core region, of health care and ancillary services related to the
13 social determinants of health, including, but not limited to, food
14 assistance services, legal services, and other social services, for
15 high-need populations;

16 (7) provide care management services to the entire population,
17 or to underserved sub-populations, in the Regional Health Hub's
18 core region;

19 (8) submit reports to the commissioner describing the health
20 needs in the Regional Health Hub's core region, identifying the
21 Regional Health Hub's near and long-term health goals for the core
22 region, and describing the activities that have been undertaken, and
23 the progress that has been made, over the preceding year, by the
24 Regional Health Hub and relevant stakeholders in the core region to
25 improve the effectiveness or efficiency of the core region's health
26 care system; and

27 (9) engage in any other appropriate activity that the
28 commissioner or Regional Health Hub deems relevant to the
29 attainment of the Regional Health Hub's goals.

30 c. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to limit the activities
31 that a Regional Health Hub may conduct on behalf of other State
32 departments or funders.

33 (cf: P.L.2019, c.517, s.6)

34
35 3. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and
36 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
37 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to
38 implement the provisions of this act.

39
40 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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43 STATEMENT

44
45 This bill revises current law establishing the Regional Health
46 Hub Program to require the Department of Human Services to
47 designate at least one area located in Hudson county as a Regional
48 Health Hub.

1 The bill expands the role of Regional Health Hubs to include
2 oversight and coordination responsibilities focused on transparency,
3 accountability, regional evaluation, and healthcare access
4 coordination related to hospitals receiving charity care funding
5 within each region.