

SENATE, No. 4834

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 15, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI
District 22 (Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Permits establishment of street medicine programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning street medicine programs and supplementing
2 Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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

6
7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Persons experiencing homelessness and other medically
9 underserved individuals may face significant barriers to obtaining
10 health care in traditional clinical settings, including lack of
11 transportation, stable housing, insurance coverage, and reliable
12 means of communication.

13 b. Providing health care where these individuals can be reached
14 may improve access to preventive and primary care, continuity of
15 treatment, and referrals to other services.

16 c. It is in the public interest to establish a framework for the
17 approval and operation of street medicine programs in this State.

18
19 2. As used in this act:

20 “Administrator” means the individual designated by an approved
21 street medicine program as responsible for its operation.

22 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Health.

23 “Department” means the Department of Health.

24 “Designated service area” means the geographic area approved
25 by the department within which a street medicine program may
26 provide street medicine services.

27 “Eligible applicant” means a health care facility licensed
28 pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.), a federally
29 qualified health center, a public health agency, or another entity that
30 the commissioner determines has the capacity to operate a street
31 medicine program.

32 “Health care provider” means an individual licensed or certified
33 to provide health care services pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised
34 Statutes or other applicable law.

35 “Medically underserved individual” means a person who
36 experiences barriers to obtaining health care in a traditional clinical
37 setting because of homelessness, housing instability, poverty, lack
38 of transportation or health insurance coverage, a behavioral health
39 condition or substance use disorder, a language or communication
40 barrier, geographic isolation, or another circumstance that limits
41 access to care.

42 “Person experiencing homelessness” means a person who lacks a
43 fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including a person
44 living outdoors, in a vehicle or place not designed for regular
45 human habitation, in an emergency shelter or temporary housing
46 program, or temporarily with another household or in a hotel or
47 motel because the person lacks an alternative permanent residence.

1 “Staff member” means a person compensated by a street
2 medicine program to perform services on its behalf.

3 “Street medicine program” means a program approved by the
4 department pursuant to section 4 of this act to provide street
5 medicine services.

6 “Street medicine services” means primary or behavioral health
7 care services provided to persons experiencing homelessness or
8 other medically underserved individuals outside a traditional
9 clinical setting within a designated service area, including in public
10 spaces, shelters, encampments, temporary residences, and other
11 community locations approved by the department. Services may
12 include screening, assessment, diagnosis, preventive care, wound
13 care not requiring general anesthesia, medication services, care
14 coordination, and referrals, to the extent authorized by the scope of
15 practice of a participating health care provider and other applicable
16 laws.

17 “Street medicine unit” means a motor vehicle or movable unit
18 identified in an approved application for use by a street medicine
19 program to transport personnel, medications, equipment, or
20 supplies; provide an appropriate private setting for care; or provide
21 nonemergency patient transportation to a health care facility when
22 clinically appropriate.

23 “Volunteer” means a person who performs services on behalf of
24 a street medicine program without compensation.

25

26 3. a. An eligible applicant shall obtain approval from the
27 department before establishing and operating a street medicine
28 program. The applicant shall identify on the application the
29 proposed administrator, designated service area, scope of services,
30 and any street medicine unit to be used by the program.

31 b. An application shall be submitted in the form and manner
32 prescribed by the department and shall include:

33 (1) an infection prevention and control plan;

34 (2) if the program proposes to handle medications, a plan for
35 their secure storage, control, administration, dispensing, and
36 disposal in accordance with applicable law;

37 (3) a plan for the collection and quarterly submission to the
38 department of aggregate or de-identified information concerning:
39 the number and types of patient encounters and services provided;
40 the number and types of encounters involving nonemergency
41 transportation to a health care facility; the number and types of
42 referrals for follow-up health care; and, to the extent known, the
43 number of patients who obtained follow-up care; and

44 (4) any other information required by the department by
45 regulation to evaluate the applicant's ability to operate safely and in
46 compliance with this act.

47 c. A street medicine program and its participating health care
48 providers shall comply with otherwise applicable requirements for

1 reporting communicable diseases, infections, and conditions. The
2 quarterly submission required by paragraph (3) of subsection b. of
3 this section shall not replace or delay any report required under
4 those requirements.

5
6 4. a. The department shall review an application submitted
7 pursuant to section 3 of this act for completeness and compliance
8 with that act.

9 b. Within 60 business days after receipt of an application, the
10 department shall notify the applicant in writing that the application
11 is approved or denied, that specified information is needed to
12 complete the application, or that the department requires an
13 additional period of not more than 60 calendar days to complete its
14 review. A notice extending review shall state the date by which the
15 department will make a determination. If the department finds an
16 application incomplete, the applicant shall have an opportunity to
17 provide the specified information. The period for a determination
18 shall begin again upon the department's receipt of the information
19 necessary to complete the application.

20 c. The department shall approve a complete application if it
21 determines that the applicant and proposed street medicine program
22 meet the requirements of this act and any regulations adopted
23 pursuant thereto. A denial shall state the reasons for the
24 determination and advise the applicant of the right to request a
25 hearing pursuant to section 7 of this act.

26
27 5. a. A street medicine program shall provide services only
28 within its designated service area and in accordance with the scope
29 of its approval.

30 b. A street medicine program shall:

31 (1) not deny or delay services solely because of a patient's
32 inability to pay or lack of health insurance coverage;

33 (2) provide staff members and volunteers with education and
34 training appropriate to their responsibilities, including patient
35 intake, referrals, infection prevention and control, field safety, and
36 patient privacy, and maintain records of that education and training;

37 (3) handle and dispose of regulated medical waste in accordance
38 with the "Comprehensive Regulated Medical Waste Management
39 Act," P.L.1989, c.34 (C.13:1E-48.1 et al.), and applicable
40 regulations;

41 (4) protect patient information in accordance with applicable
42 federal and State law; and

43 (5) collect and submit information as required pursuant to
44 section 3 of this act.

45 c. A health care facility licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136
46 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) that obtains approval to operate a street
47 medicine program shall not be required, solely by reason of that
48 approval or the provision of street medicine services, to obtain a

1 separate facility license or approval of a change to its existing
2 license, provided that the facility does not establish or hold out a
3 location in the designated service area as a permanent outpatient
4 department or fixed clinic and retains responsibility for the program
5 through its management, quality assurance, patient safety, medical
6 records, pharmacy, and infection control systems, as applicable.
7 This subsection shall not exempt a permanent site or other
8 separately regulated activity from an otherwise applicable licensure
9 requirement.

10 d. The use of a street medicine unit identified in a program's
11 approval shall not, solely by reason of that use, require a separate
12 health care facility license or approval of a change to an existing
13 health care facility license. The unit shall be clearly marked to
14 identify the street medicine program and its affiliated organization
15 and shall be maintained in safe operating condition in compliance
16 with applicable motor vehicle laws. This subsection shall not
17 exempt a unit from an otherwise applicable license, permit, or other
18 requirement for services provided in the unit or transportation
19 furnished by the unit.

20

21 6. a. An approval to operate a street medicine program shall be
22 valid for three years from the date of approval and shall not be
23 assignable or transferable.

24 b. A program may apply for renewal in the form and manner
25 prescribed by the department not less than 60 calendar days before
26 its approval expires. The department shall renew the approval if it
27 determines that the program continues to meet the requirements of
28 this act and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto. If a complete
29 renewal application is submitted on time, the approval shall remain
30 in effect until the department makes a determination, unless the
31 approval is suspended or revoked pursuant to section 7 of this act.

32 c. A program shall obtain the department's approval before
33 changing its designated service area or approved scope of services.
34 The program shall notify the department in writing at least 14
35 calendar days before discontinuing services, except when advance
36 notice is impracticable, in which case notice shall be given as soon
37 as practicable.

38 d. A program shall notify the department in writing within 14
39 calendar days after a change to other information on file with the
40 department, including its administrator, hours of operation, or
41 methods of providing services.

42

43 7. a. The department may issue a written warning or suspend or
44 revoke an approval if it determines that a street medicine program
45 has violated this act or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto. The
46 department may deny an application or refuse to renew an approval
47 if the applicant or program fails to meet the requirements of that act
48 or the regulations. The department may order an immediate

1 suspension when necessary to address an imminent threat to public
2 health or patient safety, subject to a prompt opportunity for a
3 hearing.

4 b. The department shall provide written notice of a denial,
5 suspension, revocation, or refusal to renew, stating the reasons for
6 the action and the procedure for requesting a hearing. An applicant
7 or program may request a hearing in writing within 30 calendar
8 days after receipt of the notice. If no timely request is made, the
9 action shall become final, subject to any review otherwise available
10 by law.

11 c. A hearing pursuant to this section shall be conducted in
12 accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
13 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), and applicable rules of administrative
14 procedure.

15

16 8. An organization receiving grant funding from the department
17 to provide street medicine services on the effective date of this act
18 may continue providing services under the terms of its existing
19 grant until the earlier of the expiration of the grant or the date on
20 which the organization receives a determination on a complete
21 application for approval submitted pursuant to section 3 of that act.
22 This section shall not exempt the organization or its personnel from
23 any otherwise applicable law governing the services provided.

24

25 9. a. Nothing in this act shall be construed to expand or limit
26 the scope of practice or authority of a health care provider or to
27 authorize any person to prescribe, dispense, administer, or transport
28 medication except as otherwise permitted by law.

29 b. Nothing in this act shall be construed to preempt applicable
30 municipal authority under the "Municipal Land Use Law,"
31 P.L.1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-1 et seq.), or to require a determination
32 that the provision of street medicine services constitutes an
33 inherently beneficial use under that law.

34 c. An officer, employee, agent, participating health care provider,
35 staff member, or volunteer of an approved street medicine program
36 who, in good faith, provides street medicine services on behalf of
37 the program shall not be liable for civil damages arising from an act
38 or omission in providing those services, except for an act or
39 omission constituting gross negligence, recklessness, or willful
40 misconduct, or the negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

41

42 10. The commissioner may adopt rules and regulations pursuant
43 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-
44 1 et seq.), to the provisions of this act. The commissioner may
45 adopt, immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative
46 Law, regulations necessary to implement that act, which shall be
47 effective for a period not to exceed 180 days and which may

1 thereafter be amended, adopted, or readopted in accordance with the
2 “Administrative Procedure Act.”

3

4 11. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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9 This bill permits an eligible health care facility, federally
10 qualified health center, public health agency, or other entity
11 approved by the Commissioner of Health to establish and operate a
12 street medicine program. A program would provide primary or
13 behavioral health care services outside traditional clinical settings
14 to persons experiencing homelessness and other medically
15 underserved individuals.

16 The bill requires Department of Health approval before a
17 program begins operating. An application must identify the
18 program's administrator, service area, services, and any vehicle or
19 movable unit used by the program, and must include plans
20 addressing infection control, medication security when applicable,
21 and data collection. Programs must submit aggregate or de-
22 identified information quarterly and continue to comply with
23 separate communicable disease reporting requirements.

24 The bill sets operating standards, establishes a three-year
25 approval and renewal process, and authorizes the department to
26 deny, suspend, or revoke an approval for noncompliance. It permits
27 organizations with existing department grants to continue providing
28 services during a transition period. It also addresses facility and
29 vehicle licensure, preserves professional scope-of-practice and
30 municipal land-use requirements, provides qualified civil immunity
31 for good-faith services, and authorizes implementing regulations.