

ASSEMBLY, No. 3634

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 14, 2016

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

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District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman McKeon, Assemblywoman Jones and Assemblyman Eustace

SYNOPSIS

Requires one member of board in charge of institution for persons with mental illness or developmental disability to be family member of resident.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/21/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning boards in charge of institutions for persons
2 with a mental illness or developmental disability and amending
3 R.S.30:4-1.

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

7
8 1. R.S.30:4-1 is amended to read as follows:

9 30:4-1. The State board, with the approval of the Governor,
10 shall appoint a board of trustees for each State institution or agency
11 or for each group or class thereof as it may determine, from
12 residents of the State without respect to political affiliation or
13 belief.

14 The State board, with the approval of the Governor, may appoint
15 a board of trustees or authorize or designate an existing board of
16 trustees whenever the establishment or assumption of jurisdiction
17 over an additional institution, or the acquisition of an institutional
18 site, is authorized by the Legislature.

19 Each board of trustees of an institution shall be known as "the
20 board of trustees" naming the institution or group or class for which
21 the board is appointed. The State board, with the approval of the
22 Governor, shall name the boards of noninstitutional agencies.

23 Except as otherwise specifically provided by statute, the boards
24 of trustees shall consist of not less than five nor more than seven
25 members. At least two women shall be members of each board in
26 charge of the institutions or agencies for persons who are blind, or
27 who have a mental illness or developmental disability, and at least
28 two members of the Commission for the Blind and Visually
29 Impaired shall themselves be legally blind but not employees, or
30 related to an employee by blood, marriage, or adoption. At least
31 one member of each board in charge of the institutions or agencies
32 for persons who have a mental illness or developmental disability
33 shall be a family member of a resident of the institution or agency,
34 and shall fill the first vacancy on a board if there is no family
35 member on the board.

36 The term of each board member shall be three years commencing
37 on July 1 and ending on June 30, of the third year thereafter. A
38 vacancy shall be filled by the State board, with the approval of the
39 Governor, for the unexpired term only.

40 The members of new or additional boards of trustees shall at the
41 time of their appointment be divided into groups so that the terms of
42 two members shall expire on June 30 of the year next succeeding
43 appointment; the terms of two others on June 30 of the second year
44 succeeding appointment; the term of the fifth member and in case of
45 larger boards the term of the sixth member, on June 30 of the third

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 year succeeding appointment; the term of the seventh member of a
2 board having seven members, on June 30 of the fourth year
3 succeeding appointment. Their successors shall be appointed for
4 three-year terms.

5 The members of boards of trustees shall receive no compensation
6 for services but shall be reimbursed for actual expenditures incurred
7 in the performance of duty. They shall be subject to removal by the
8 State board, with the approval of the Governor, at any time for good
9 and sufficient cause.

10 Annually, on or before July 1 each board of trustees shall elect
11 from its members a chair and vice chair and shall appoint a
12 secretary, with the approval of the chief executive officer of the
13 institution, who shall be an employee of the institution or agency
14 and serve at the pleasure of the board without additional
15 compensation. The term of office of the chair and vice chair shall
16 be until June 30 of the following year or until their successors are
17 elected and qualified.

18 (cf: P.L.2013, c.103, s.76)

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20 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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25 This bill would provide that at least one member of each board in
26 charge of the institutions or agencies for persons who have a mental
27 illness or developmental disability shall be a family member of a
28 resident of the institution or agency, and shall fill the first vacancy
29 on a board if there is no family member on the board. It is the
30 sponsor's belief that this bill will help to ensure that family
31 members of residents in State institutions or agencies for persons
32 who have a mental illness or developmental disability will have a
33 say in decisions made on behalf of their loved ones.