

SENATE, No. 1710

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 16, 2016

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator ROBERT W. SINGER

District 30 (Monmouth and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Provides for licensure of ambulatory care facilities to provide integrated primary care services including behavioral health care.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning behavioral health care services provided by
2 ambulatory care facilities and supplementing Title 26 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

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

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8 1. In order to ensure that ambulatory care facilities that are
9 licensed to provide primary health care services pursuant to
10 N.J.A.C.8:43A are able to provide their patients with integrated
11 primary health care services that include behavioral health care, the
12 Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the Commissioner of
13 Human Services, shall adopt regulations, pursuant to the
14 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
15 seq.), to allow an ambulatory care facility to apply for a modifier to
16 its license to allow it to provide limited behavioral health care
17 services under its ambulatory care facility license, without a license
18 to operate a mental health program or a substance abuse treatment
19 facility issued by the Department of Human Services.

20 Behavioral health care services authorized under this section
21 shall include outpatient mental health and substance abuse
22 treatment services for individuals who exhibit either mild or
23 moderate symptoms of a behavioral health disorder. Such treatment
24 services shall include, but need not be limited to: assessment and
25 evaluation; referral, linkage, and follow-up; individual, group, and
26 family therapy; psychiatric evaluation; medication services; and
27 medication monitoring.

28 Behavioral health care services authorized under this section
29 shall be provided by an individual who is licensed to practice as a
30 physician, physician assistant, advanced practice nurse,
31 psychologist, certified or licensed substance abuse counselor,
32 licensed professional counselor, licensed marriage and family
33 therapist, or clinical social worker.

34
35 2. An ambulatory care facility that is authorized under its
36 current license to provide integrated primary health care services
37 that include behavioral health care services on the effective date of
38 this act shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirements
39 for a license modifier established pursuant to this act, and shall be
40 granted a license modifier upon its application to the Department of
41 Health.

42
43 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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45 STATEMENT

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47 This bill allows ambulatory care facilities, including Federally
48 Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), to provide integrated primary

1 health care services, including behavioral health care services,
2 under a single license.

3 The bill requires the Commissioner of Health, in consultation
4 with the Commissioner of Human Services, to adopt regulations to
5 allow an ambulatory care facility to apply for a modifier to its
6 license to allow it to provide, under its ambulatory care facility
7 license, limited behavioral health care services for individuals who
8 exhibit either mild or moderate symptoms of a behavioral health
9 disorder. Authorized treatment services will include, but need not
10 be limited to: assessment and evaluation; referral, linkage, and
11 follow-up; individual, group, and family therapy; psychiatric
12 evaluation; medication services; and medication monitoring. Under
13 the bill, these services are to be provided by a licensed physician,
14 physician assistant, advanced practice nurse, psychologist, certified
15 or licensed substance abuse counselor, licensed professional
16 counselor, licensed marriage and family therapist, or clinical social
17 worker.

18 In general, providers of behavioral health services are licensed
19 by the Department of Human Services and ambulatory care
20 facilities are licensed by the Department of Health. The bill will
21 allow a single license to include all primary health care services,
22 permitting greater coordination between traditional primary health
23 care staff and behavioral health care staff and improving integration
24 of health care services at ambulatory care facilities.