

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2391

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 1, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman GARY S. SCHAER**

**District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Pinkin, Assemblyman Verrelli and Assemblywoman Reynolds-Jackson**

**SYNOPSIS**

Concerns Early Intervention Support Services program in DOH and expansion of program to all counties.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/19/2018)**

1 AN ACT concerning behavioral health services and supplementing  
2 Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

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7 1. a. As used in this section, "Early Intervention Support  
8 Services Program" means a program that provides rapid access to  
9 short term, recovery-oriented crisis intervention and crisis  
10 stabilization services for up to 30 days to an individual 18 years of  
11 age or older with a serious mental illness and includes, but is not  
12 limited to, medication, therapy, and case management services,  
13 which are offered at an on-site location, other than a hospital, or  
14 through outreach in the community.

15 b. The Department of Health shall expand the Early  
16 Intervention Support Services Programs currently available in 11  
17 counties in the State to provide for one such program in each county  
18 in the State.

19 c. An Early Intervention Support Services Program shall be  
20 available to provide services 14 hours per day, seven days a week.

21 d. The department shall coordinate with each county Early  
22 Intervention Support Services Program in the State to provide for  
23 education about the program, and accessibility to the program, to  
24 members of the public served by a county program and to those  
25 organizations or persons who may be the source of referrals to the  
26 county program.

27 e. The department shall utilize the moneys available to it for  
28 the program to ensure that funding is available for:

29 (1) expanding the program to each county in the State; and

30 (2) the expansion of a program in existence on the effective date  
31 of this act, based on the needs of the program to provide services.

32 f. The department shall:

33 (1) collect, at a minimum, information from each Early  
34 Intervention Support Services Program in the State about the  
35 services provided by the program, the utilization of these services,  
36 and the number of individuals who have been stabilized and  
37 referred to treatment in the community; and

38 (2) issue, within 18 months of the effective date of this act and  
39 annually thereafter, a report to the Governor and pursuant to section  
40 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) to the Legislature, based on the  
41 information collected pursuant to paragraph (1) of this section. The  
42 report shall include a review and analysis of each Early Intervention  
43 Support Services Program in the State and any recommendations for  
44 improvement to the programs.

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46 2. The Commissioner of Health shall, in accordance with the  
47 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et

1 seq.), adopt any rules and regulations as the commissioner deems  
2 necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

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4 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the 13th month next  
5 following the date of enactment, except the Commissioner of Health  
6 may take any anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be  
7 necessary for the implementation of this act.

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STATEMENT

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12 This bill expands the Early Intervention Support Services (EISS)  
13 Programs, currently available in 11 counties (Atlantic, Bergen,  
14 Camden, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Mercer,  
15 Monmouth, Morris, and Ocean), to provide for one program in each  
16 county in the State. An EISS program is defined in the bill as a  
17 program that provides rapid access to short term, recovery-oriented  
18 crisis intervention and crisis stabilization services for up to 30 days  
19 to an individual 18 years of age or older with a serious mental  
20 illness and includes, but is not limited to, medication, therapy, and  
21 case management services, which are offered at an on-site location,  
22 other than a hospital, or through outreach in the community. The  
23 bill requires that an EISS program be available to provide services  
24 14 hours per day, seven days a week.

25 EISS Programs are designed to provide the crisis intervention  
26 and stabilization services needed to help prevent the recurrence of a  
27 crisis and to reduce overutilization of hospital emergency  
28 departments for a behavioral health crisis. Additionally, the bill  
29 requires that the DOH coordinate with each county EISS program in  
30 the State to provide for education about the program, and  
31 accessibility to the program, to members of the public served by  
32 that county program and to those organizations or persons who may  
33 be the source of referrals to that program.

34 The bill also provides that DOH is to utilize the moneys  
35 available to it for the program to ensure that funding is available  
36 for: expanding the program to each county in the State; and the  
37 expansion of a program in existence on the effective date of this  
38 bill, based on the needs of the program to provide services. The bill  
39 requires DOH to collect information from each EISS Program in the  
40 State, including information about the services provided, their  
41 utilization, and the number of individuals who have been stabilized  
42 and referred to treatment. Based on the information collected, the  
43 DOH is to issue annual reports to the Governor and to the  
44 Legislature, which reports shall include a review and analysis of  
45 each program and any recommendations for improvement.