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Co-Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman Tucker, Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywomen McKnight and Murphy

SYNOPSIS
Requires emergency departments to take certain measures concerning palliative care for patients.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As reported by the Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee on December 5, 2019, with amendments.
AN ACT concerning emergency departments and palliative care and
supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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

1. [a] The emergency department of a general hospital licensed
pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) shall develop and
implement a plan to integrate the provision of palliative care services
for patients treated in the emergency department for whom palliative
care is appropriate. The plan shall include:

2[\(a^1\)] (1) the adoption of a standardized screening tool \(a^2\) as
recommended by the Department of Health\(a^2\) for use by health care
professionals in the emergency department to facilitate the
identification of patients who present to the emergency department for
acute symptom management, pain relief, or otherwise, who would
benefit from palliative care services\(a^1\). The plan shall also include:

2[\(b^1\)] (2) the provision of patient-centered information \(b^2\) as
developed by the Department of Health\(b^2\) concerning the benefits of
palliative care, the conditions, diagnoses, and disease stage for which
palliative care is generally appropriate, and referrals to providers of
outpatient palliative care services, when appropriate\(a^1\). The plan shall
include; and

2[\(c^1\)] (3) consideration of the unique needs of patients with
intellectual or developmental disabilities\(c^1\) or behavioral health
issues who present to the emergency department and for whom
palliative care may be indicated.

2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh
month next following enactment\(a^2\) except that the Commissioner of
Health may take such anticipatory administrative action in advance
thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act\(a^2\).

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.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:
\(^a\) Senate SHH committee amendments adopted February 7, 2019.
\(^b\) Assembly AHE committee amendments adopted December 5, 2019.