

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3117

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 18, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

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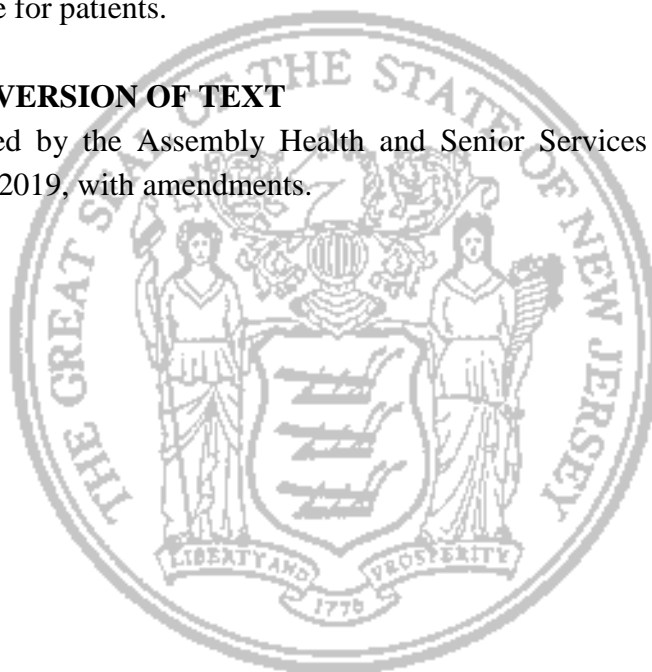
**Assemblywoman Tucker, Assemblyman Benson, Assemblywomen
McKnight and Murphy**

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.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/17/2019)

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

12 ²**[a.¹] (1)**² the adoption of a standardized screening tool ², as
13 recommended by the Department of Health,² for use by health care
14 professionals in the emergency department to facilitate the
15 identification of patients who present to the emergency department for
16 acute symptom management, pain relief, or otherwise, who would
17 benefit from palliative care services¹ **[**. The plan shall also include¹**]**;

18 ²**[b.¹] (2)**² the provision of patient-centered information ², as
19 developed by the Department of Health,² concerning the benefits of
20 palliative care, the conditions, diagnoses, and disease stage for which
21 palliative care is generally appropriate, and referrals to providers of
22 outpatient palliative care services, when appropriate¹ **[**.The plan shall
23 include¹**]**; and

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

28

29 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh
30 month next following enactment ², except that the Commissioner of
31 Health may take such anticipatory administrative action in advance
32 thereof as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act².

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:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted February 7, 2019.

²Assembly AHE committee amendments adopted December 5, 2019.