# ASSEMBLY, No. 222

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

### **Sponsored by:**

Assemblywoman CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER District 28 (Essex) Assemblyman JAMEL C. HOLLEY District 20 (Union) Assemblywoman YVONNE LOPEZ District 19 (Middlesex)

## Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Jimenez, Assemblymen Space, Wirths, Assemblywomen Mosquera, McKnight, Assemblyman Benson and Assemblywoman Dunn

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Requires hospitals and homeless shelters to provide information on services and resources to individuals who are homeless or military veterans.

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/20/2020)

**AN ACT** concerning services and resources for veterans and the homeless and supplementing Title 26 and Title 55 of the Revised Statutes.

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

1. A general acute care hospital licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) shall, as part of the patient intake process, inquire as to whether the individual who is to receive services from the hospital is homeless or is a military veteran. In the event that the individual responds in the affirmative, the hospital shall provide the individual with information concerning special services and resources that are available to the individual based on the individual's status as homeless or as a military veteran. Each general acute care hospital licensed in this State shall establish standard protocols and procedures for making inquiries and providing information as required by this section.

2. An emergency shelter for the homeless established pursuant to P.L.1985, c.48 (C.55:13C-1 et seq.) shall, as part of the client intake process, inquire as to whether the individual who is to receive services is a military veteran. In the event that the individual responds in the affirmative, the shelter shall provide the individual with information concerning special services and resources that are available to the individual based on the individual's status as a military veteran. Each emergency shelter for the homeless established in this State shall establish standard protocols and procedures for making inquiries and providing information as required by this section.

3. The Commissioner of Health and the Commissioner of Community Affairs shall, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), adopt any rules and regulations as each commissioner deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

 4. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month next following the date of enactment, except that the Commissioner of Health and the Commissioner of Community Affairs may take any anticipatory administrative action in advance as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

#### **STATEMENT**

This bill requires general acute care hospitals and emergency shelters for the homeless to provide information about special

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services and resources to certain individuals receiving services from the hospital or shelter.

Specifically, hospitals licensed in the State will be required to inquire, as part of the hospital's patient intake process, whether the individual seeking services is homeless or is a military veteran. In the event that the individual responds in the affirmative, the hospital is to provide the individual with information concerning special services and resources that are available to the individual based on the individual's status as homeless or as a military veteran.

Emergency shelters for the homeless will be required to inquire, as part of the client intake process, whether the individual who is to receive services is a military veteran. If the event that the individual responds in the affirmative, the shelter is to provide the individual with information concerning special services and resources that are available to the individual based on the individual's status as a military veteran.

Hospitals and shelters will be required to establish standard protocols and procedures for making inquiries and providing information as required by the bill.