

ASSEMBLY, No. 1242

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

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)

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Verrelli, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson and Sumter

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/22/2021)

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:*

6

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.

45

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

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

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

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

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