

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2649**

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

---

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Tucker**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires nursing homes to provide training to staff in behavioral health issues.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/1/2021)**

1 AN ACT concerning training in nursing homes 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. The Commissioner of Health, in consultation with the  
8 Commissioner of Human Services, shall establish a training  
9 program for nursing home staff, as described in subsection b. of this  
10 section, in the care of nursing home residents who have behavioral  
11 health issues. The training program shall include, but not be limited  
12 to: sensitivity to behavioral health issues among residents of  
13 nursing homes; information about depression and other psychiatric  
14 disorders, as appropriate; and the use of medication to treat those  
15 disorders.

16 b. A nursing home shall annually provide training specified in  
17 subsection a. of this section to a certified nurse aide, licensed  
18 practical nurse, registered professional nurse, and other health care  
19 professionals, as appropriate, who provide direct care to a resident  
20 in the nursing home.

21  
22 2. Pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,  
23 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Commissioner of Health, in  
24 consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services, shall adopt  
25 rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

26  
27 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh  
28 month next following the date of enactment, but the Commissioners  
29 of Health and Human Services may take such anticipatory  
30 administrative action in advance thereof as shall be necessary for  
31 the implementation of this act.

32

33

34

STATEMENT

35

36 This bill requires the Commissioner of Health, in consultation  
37 with the Commissioner of Human Services, to establish a training  
38 program for nursing home staff (certified nurse aides, licensed  
39 practical nurses, registered professional nurses, and other health  
40 care professionals who provide direct care to nursing home  
41 residents) in the care of residents who have behavioral health  
42 issues.

43 The training program would include, but not be limited to:  
44 sensitivity to behavioral health issues among residents of nursing  
45 homes; information about depression and other psychiatric  
46 disorders, as appropriate; and the use of medication to treat those  
47 disorders. The bill requires nursing homes to provide the training  
48 annually.