

ASSEMBLY, No. 3007

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires institutions of higher education to provide students with access to mental health care programs and services and to establish a hotline to provide information concerning the availability of those services.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/12/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning the mental health care programs and services
2 offered by institutions of higher education and supplementing
3 chapter 61D of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. Beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year and in each
9 academic year thereafter, a public and independent institution of
10 higher education shall ensure that all students have access to
11 campus-based mental health care programs and services, and shall
12 provide each newly-enrolled student with information concerning
13 the location and availability of those programs and services.

14 b. Beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year, each public
15 and independent institution of higher education shall establish and
16 maintain, on a 24-hour basis, a toll-free telephone hotline for
17 students. The hotline shall receive and respond to calls from
18 students seeking counseling for depression, anxiety, stress, or other
19 psychological or emotional tension, trauma, or disorder. The
20 operators of the hotline shall seek to identify those callers who
21 should be referred to additional counseling services, and to provide
22 such referrals.

23 The number for the hotline shall be posted in each dormitory,
24 library, and student center, and any other facility or area on campus
25 that the institution determines to be appropriate.

26 c. The operators of the hotline shall be, to the greatest extent
27 possible, persons who by experience or education are (1) familiar
28 with the emotional and psychological tensions, depressions, and
29 anxieties unique to higher education students; or (2) trained to
30 provide counseling services involving substance abuse, personal
31 stress management, and other emotional or psychological disorders
32 or conditions which may be likely to adversely affect the well-being
33 of students.

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35 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
36 the 2021-2022 academic year.

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39 STATEMENT

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41 This bill requires institutions of higher education, beginning with
42 the 2021-2022 academic year, to ensure that all students have
43 access to campus-based mental health care programs and services.
44 Under the bill, each institution must provide newly-enrolled
45 students with information concerning the location and availability
46 of those programs and services.

47 The bill also requires each institution to establish a 24-hour
48 telephone hotline for students. Under the bill, the hotline will

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1 receive and respond to calls from students seeking counseling for
2 depression, anxiety, stress, or other psychological or emotional
3 tension, trauma, or disorder. The operators of the hotline will seek
4 to identify those callers who should be referred to additional
5 counseling services, and to provide such referrals. The number for
6 the hotline is required to be posted in each dormitory, library, and
7 student center, and any other facility or area on campus that the
8 institution determines to be appropriate.