

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4018

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 4, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman RONALD S. DANCER**

**District 12 (Burlington, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires certain physicians to provide certain patients written notification explaining how to obtain medical records.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning medical records and supplementing Title 45 of  
2 the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. As used in this section, “physician” means a physician  
8 licensed pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

9 b. A physician, who anticipates the cessation of the operations  
10 of his or her practice for more than three months, shall provide  
11 written notification to all patients whom the physician has treated in  
12 the previous seven years detailing the procedure by which the  
13 patients may obtain any medical records which the physician is  
14 required to maintain under applicable provisions of law.

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16 2. The Commissioner of Health shall adopt rules and  
17 regulations, in accordance with the “Administrative Procedure Act,”  
18 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as are necessary to effectuate  
19 the provisions of this act.

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21 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

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26 This bill requires certain physicians to provide certain patients  
27 written notification explaining how to obtain medical records.

28 Under the bill, a physician, who anticipates the cessation of the  
29 operations of his or her practice for more than three months, is to  
30 provide written notification to all patients whom the physician has  
31 treated in the previous seven years detailing the procedure by which  
32 the patients may obtain any medical records which the physician is  
33 required to maintain under applicable provisions of law.

34 There is a growing number of reports of patients who are unable  
35 to retrieve medical records due to the closure of their physician’s  
36 practice. It is the sponsor’s intent that there be a procedure in place  
37 for patients to retrieve their medical records in the event of the  
38 closure of their physician’s practice.