

ASSEMBLY, No. 4386

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 6, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires Attorney General and certain county prosecutors to establish guidelines for counties to establish special needs registries.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/14/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning special needs registries and supplementing
2 Title 52 of 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. The Attorney General, in consultation with a county
8 prosecutor who has established and maintained a voluntary special
9 needs registry within four years prior to the effective date of
10 P.L. , c. (pending before Legislature as this bill), shall issue
11 guidelines to be used by each county prosecutor who establishes a
12 voluntary special needs registry for the purpose of providing, in the
13 event of an emergency situation, medical care or assistance to a
14 resident, student, or employee in the county who has a special need.

15 b. The guidelines shall include, but not be limited to:

16 (1) methods that will be used to notify members of the public of
17 the benefits and availability of the special needs registry;

18 (2) information to be included on the registry that would be
19 beneficial to help a first responder provide appropriate assistance
20 when the first responder is dispatched to the scene of an emergency
21 situation;

22 (3) procedures to maintain confidentiality about the information
23 on the registry; and

24 (4) a requirement to link the information on the registry to the
25 first responder who is dispatched to the scene of an emergency
26 situation.

27 c. As used in this section:

28 "First responder" means a law enforcement officer.

29 "Special need" means a physical or mental disability that
30 substantially limits one or more major life activities and shall
31 include, but not be limited to: Alzheimer's disease and related
32 disorders; dementia; autism spectrum disorder; diabetes; Down
33 syndrome; epilepsy; electricity or oxygen dependency; hearing
34 impairment; intellectual disability; physical disability; life
35 threatening allergy; mental illness; mobility impairment; obesity;
36 post-traumatic stress disorder; sight impairment, including
37 blindness; and speech impairment.

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39 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the fourth month
40 next following the date of enactment.

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STATEMENT

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45 This bill requires the Attorney General, in consultation with a
46 county prosecutor who has established and maintained a voluntary
47 special needs registry within four years prior to the bill's enactment,
48 to issue guidelines to establish a voluntary special needs registry.

1 The guidelines are to be used by each county prosecutor who
2 establishes a voluntary special needs registry for the purpose of
3 providing, in the event of an emergency situation, medical care or
4 assistance to a resident, student, or employee in the county who has
5 a special need.

6 The guidelines would include, but not be limited to: methods that
7 will be used to notify members of the public the benefits and
8 availability of the special needs registry; information to be included
9 on the registry that would be beneficial to help a first responder
10 officer provide appropriate assistance when the first responder is
11 dispatched to the scene of an emergency situation; procedures to
12 maintain confidentiality about the information on the registry; and a
13 requirement to link the information on the registry to the first
14 responder who is dispatched to the scene of an emergency situation.

15 Monmouth county has been operating a countywide voluntary
16 special needs registry since the spring of 2016.