ASSEMBLY, No. 4886 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

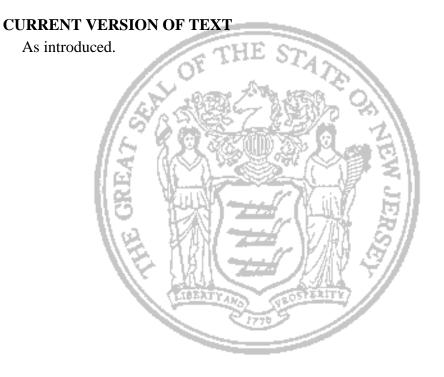
INTRODUCED OCTOBER 26, 2020

Sponsored by: Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE District 37 (Bergen) Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY District 7 (Burlington) Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by: Assemblymen Giblin, Zwicker, Johnson, Assemblywomen McKnight, Speight, Assemblymen Chiaravalloti, Benson, Holley, McKeon, Tully, Assemblywomen N.Munoz, Jasey, Swain, Schepisi and Timberlake

SYNOPSIS

Requires resources be made available to victims of sexual assault.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/1/2021)

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1 AN ACT concerning protocols for sexual assault victims and 2 supplementing Title 52 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. Upon receiving a report of aggravated sexual assault or sexual assault as defined in subsection a. or c. of N.J.S.2C:14-2, the 8 9 Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, the county prosecutor's office, 10 or any other law enforcement agency involved in the case shall 11 make a packet of information available to the victim in electronic or 12 paper format that includes, but is not limited to: 13 a. rights and laws pertaining to victims of sexual assault; the criminal justice process as it pertains to victims of sexual 14 b. 15 assault; c. existing medical, counseling, and mental health services 16 17 available to victims of sexual assault; 18 d. any additional services available to victims of sexual assault through the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy; 19 20 a telephone number, established by the county prosecutor's e. office involved in the case, that the victim may call at any time for 21 22 updates concerning the victim's case; and contact information for the appropriate county Office of 23 f. 24 Victim-Witness Advocacy. 25 The victim may elect to waive the right to receive the packet of 26 information. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, rule, 27 or regulation to the contrary, the Office of Victim-Witness 28 Advocacy, the county prosecutor's office, or any other law 29 enforcement agency involved in the case shall not discuss or 30 provide information regarding crime prevention strategies with an 31 alleged victim of aggravated sexual assault or sexual assault. 32 33 2. This act shall take effect immediately. 34 35 **STATEMENT** 36 37 38 This bill requires that certain information be provided to victims 39 of sexual assault when the victim reports the crime to law 40 enforcement. 41 Under the bill, upon receiving a report of aggravated sexual assault or sexual assault, the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, 42 the county prosecutor's office, or any other law enforcement agency 43 44 involved in the case is required to make a packet of information 45 available to the victim in electronic or paper format that includes, 46 but is not limited to:

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- rights and laws pertaining to victims of sexual assault;

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- 2 • the criminal justice process as it pertains to victims of sexual 3 assault;
 - existing medical, counseling, and mental health services available to victims of sexual assault;
- 6 • any additional services available to victims of sexual assault 7 through the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy;
- 8 • a telephone number that the victim may call at any time to 9 receive updates on his or her case; and
 - contact information for the appropriate county Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy.

12 The victim may elect to waive the right to receive the packet of information. In addition, the bill provides that the Office of Victim-13 14 Witness Advocacy, the county prosecutor's office, or any other law 15 enforcement agency involved in the case is not to discuss or provide 16 information regarding crime prevention strategies with an alleged 17 victim of aggravated sexual assault or sexual assault.

18 It is the sponsor's intent to help victims of sexual assault 19 navigate the often confusing criminal justice process by ensuring that the victim is provided with critical information at the outset of 20 the victim's contact with law enforcement, a time when the victim 21

22 may feel most vulnerable and in need of guidance.