

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4886**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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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.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



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

1 AN ACT concerning protocols for sexual assault victims and  
2 supplementing 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:*

6  
7 1. Upon receiving a report of aggravated sexual assault or  
8 sexual assault as defined in subsection a. or c. of N.J.S.2C:14-2, the  
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;  
14 b. the criminal justice process as it pertains to victims of sexual  
15 assault;  
16 c. existing medical, counseling, and mental health services  
17 available to victims of sexual assault;  
18 d. any additional services available to victims of sexual assault  
19 through the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy;  
20 e. a telephone number, established by the county prosecutor's  
21 office involved in the case, that the victim may call at any time for  
22 updates concerning the victim's case; and  
23 f. contact information for the appropriate county Office of  
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.

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33 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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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  
42 assault or sexual assault, the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy,  
43 the county prosecutor's office, or any other law enforcement agency  
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:

- 1       • rights and laws pertaining to victims of sexual assault;
- 2       • the criminal justice process as it pertains to victims of sexual
- 3       assault;
- 4       • existing medical, counseling, and mental health services
- 5       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
- 10      • contact information for the appropriate county Office of
- 11      Victim-Witness Advocacy.

12      The victim may elect to waive the right to receive the packet of  
13 information. In addition, the bill provides that the Office of Victim-  
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  
20 that the victim is provided with critical information at the outset of  
21 the victim's contact with law enforcement, a time when the victim  
22 may feel most vulnerable and in need of guidance.