SENATE, No. 387

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:
Senator LORETTA WEINBERG
District 37 (Bergen)
Senator M. TERESA RUIZ
District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:
Senators Brown and Corrado

SYNOPSIS
Establishes Statewide “Peace: A Learned Solution Program (PALS).”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/1/2021)
AN ACT concerning domestic violence and supplementing Title 30
of the Revised Statutes.

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

1. a. The Department of Children and Families shall establish
and maintain a Statewide program for the children and families of
domestic violence victims to be known as “Peace: A Learned
Solution Program (PALS),” hereinafter referred to as the “PALS
program.”

b. The department shall provide grants to domestic violence
organizations which shall be responsible for developing and
implementing therapeutic treatment, counseling and supportive
services to those children and their family members who have been
exposed to domestic violence. The organization shall provide these
individuals with a safe environment to reduce the impact of
domestic violence and improve family functioning. The
organization shall be responsible for developing and coordinating
community-based supportive services for these children and their
families.

c. The department shall assign staff to develop strategies for
assisting domestic violence organizations in implementing this
program throughout the State. The department shall monitor the
implementation of the program by requiring participating
organizations to maintain accurate records concerning the levels of
service, referral activity, and overall program management.

2. The department shall collect and maintain data on the
“PALS program” and provide an annual report to the Governor and
to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164
(C.52:14-19.1), including information on the number of counties or
municipalities that have implemented the program and the number
of participants in the program. The report shall also include
information on the effectiveness of the program.

3. The Department of Children and Families shall adopt,
pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
(C.52:14B-1 et seq.), such rules and regulations as may be
necessary to effectuate the provisions of this act.

4. There shall be appropriated from the General Fund such
funds as are necessary to implement the provisions and to effectuate
the purposes of this act as shall be included in any general or
supplemental appropriation act.

5. This act shall take effect immediately.
STATEMENT

This bill would require the Department of Children and Families to establish and maintain a Statewide therapeutic treatment program for the children and families of domestic violence victims to be known as “Peace: A Learned Solution Program (PALS),” hereinafter referred to as the “PALS program.”

Currently, the department provides grants to organizations that provide “PALS” program services to this community. According to the department, the “PALS” program is available in 11 counties. This bill codifies this existing program.

Under the bill, the department would provide grants to domestic violence organizations which would be responsible for developing and implementing therapeutic treatment, counseling and supportive services to those children and their family members who have been exposed to domestic violence. The organization would provide these individuals with a safe environment to reduce the impact of domestic violence and improve family functioning. The organization would be responsible for developing and coordinating community-based supportive services for these children and their families.

The bill requires the department to assign staff to develop strategies for assisting the participating organizations in implementing this program throughout the State. The department would also monitor the implementation of the program by requiring these organizations to maintain accurate records concerning the levels of service, referral activity, and overall program management.

In addition, the bill requires the department to collect and maintain data on the program and provide an annual report to the Governor and to the Legislature, including information on the number of counties or municipalities that have implemented the program and the number of participants in the program. The report would also include information on the effectiveness of the program.

There would be appropriated from the General Fund such funds as are necessary to implement the bill’s provisions and to effectuate its purposes.

This bill embodies recommendation 8 of the Supreme Court Ad Hoc Committee on Domestic Violence issued June 2016.