

# SENATE, No. 1035

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 30, 2020

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator VIN GOPAL**  
**District 11 (Monmouth)**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Provides that persons between 18 and 21 years of age with disabilities are eligible to receive direct support professional services from DHS.

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



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1 AN ACT concerning direct support professionals and supplementing  
2 Title 30 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. Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation  
8 to the contrary, any person with a disability who is between 18 and  
9 21 years of age shall be eligible to receive direct support  
10 professional services from the Department of Human Services.

11 b. The Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with  
12 the Commissioner of Children and Families and the Assistant  
13 Commissioner of the Division of Developmental Disabilities in the  
14 Department of Human Services, shall adopt rules and regulations,  
15 pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410  
16 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to implement the  
17 provisions of this section.

18 c. As used in this section:

19 “Direct support professional” means an individual who provides  
20 direct, non-medical supportive assistance, on a daily basis, to a  
21 person who has a physical, intellectual, or developmental disability,  
22 with the aim of helping the person to: become better integrated into  
23 the community or the least restrictive environment; more effectively  
24 understand, communicate, and advocate for, the person’s individual  
25 needs and desires; identify and participate in positive employment,  
26 job coaching, and training opportunities; make informed choices,  
27 and better understand the options and possible consequences of  
28 choices relating to physical health, safety, and emotional well-  
29 being; address challenging behaviors through a person-centered  
30 approach; successfully engage in the basic activities of daily living;  
31 identify and participate in activities that promote a healthy lifestyle;  
32 and otherwise lead a self-directed and autonomous life.

33 “Person with a disability” means a person who has a physical,  
34 intellectual, or developmental disability.

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36 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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41 This bill would provide that any person with a physical,  
42 intellectual, or developmental disability who is between 18 and 21  
43 years of age or older is eligible to receive direct support  
44 professional services from the Department of Human Services. A  
45 direct support professional provides direct, non-medical supportive  
46 assistance, on a daily basis, to a person who has a physical,  
47 intellectual, or developmental disability, with the aim of helping the  
48 person to: become better integrated into the community or the least

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1 restrictive environment; more effectively understand, communicate,  
2 and advocate for, the person's individual needs and desires; identify  
3 and participate in positive employment, job coaching, and training  
4 opportunities; make informed choices, and better understand the  
5 options and possible consequences of choices relating to physical  
6 health, safety, and emotional well-being; address challenging  
7 behaviors through a person-centered approach; successfully engage  
8 in the basic activities of daily living; identify and participate in  
9 activities that promote a healthy lifestyle; and otherwise lead a self-  
10 directed and autonomous life.

11 Currently, individuals are not eligible for benefits from the  
12 Department of Human Services, including services from direct  
13 support professionals, until they reach the age of 21. Before the age  
14 of 21, it is assumed that individuals will receive necessary services  
15 at school, through the Department of Education. This bill would  
16 ensure that individuals who graduate high school earlier than age 21  
17 are eligible for direct support professional services.

18 The bill would require the Commissioner of Human Services, in  
19 consultation with the Commissioner of Children and Families and  
20 the Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Developmental  
21 Disabilities in the Department of Human Services, to adopt rules  
22 and regulations to implement the bill's provisions.