

SENATE, No. 2176

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Concerns Early Intervention Support Services program in DHS and expansion of program to all counties.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning behavioral health services 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. As used in this section, "Early Intervention Support Services
8 Program" means a program that provides rapid access to short term,
9 recovery-oriented crisis intervention and crisis stabilization services
10 for up to 30 days to an individual 18 years of age or older with a
11 serious mental illness and includes, but is not limited to, medication,
12 therapy, and case management services, which are offered at an on-site
13 location, other than a hospital, or through outreach in the community.

14 b. The Department of Human Services shall expand the Early
15 Intervention Support Services Programs currently available in 11
16 counties in the State to provide for one such program in each county in
17 the State. Implementation may be phased in, with the order of
18 implementation to be determined by consideration of population,
19 unmet needs, and geographic metrics, as determined by the
20 department.

21 c. An Early Intervention Support Services Program shall be
22 available to provide services 14 hours per day, seven days a week.

23 d. The department shall coordinate with each county Early
24 Intervention Support Services Program in the State to provide for
25 education about the program, and accessibility to the program, to
26 members of the public served by a county program and to those
27 organizations or persons who may be the source of referrals to the
28 county program.

29 e. The department shall utilize the moneys available to it for the
30 program to ensure that funding is available for:

- 31 (1) expanding the program to each county in the State; and
32 (2) the expansion of a program in existence on the effective date
33 of this act, based on the needs of the program to provide services.

34 f. Each Early Intervention Support Services Program shall
35 establish a written affiliation with at least one screening center that
36 serves in the county in which the program operates, as determined by
37 the department.

38 g. The department shall:

39 (1) collect, at a minimum, information from each Early
40 Intervention Support Services Program in the State about the services
41 provided by the program, the utilization of those services, and the
42 number of individuals who have been stabilized and referred to
43 treatment in the community; and

44 (2) issue, within 18 months of the effective date of this act and
45 annually thereafter, a report to the Governor and pursuant to section 2
46 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) to the Legislature, based on the
47 information collected pursuant to paragraph (1) of this section. The
48 report shall include a review and analysis of each Early Intervention

1 Support Services Program in the State and any recommendations for
2 improvement to the programs.

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4 2. The Commissioner of Human Services shall, in accordance
5 with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
6 et seq.), adopt any rules and regulations as the commissioner deems
7 necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

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9 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the 13th month next
10 following the date of enactment, except the Commissioner of Human
11 Services may take any anticipatory administrative action in advance as
12 shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

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STATEMENT

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17 This bill expands the Early Intervention Support Services (EISS)
18 Programs, currently available in 11 counties (Atlantic, Bergen,
19 Camden, Cumberland, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Mercer,
20 Monmouth, Morris, and Ocean), to provide for one program in each
21 county in the State. Implementation of the programs may be phased in
22 based on consideration of population, unmet needs, and geographic
23 metrics.

24 An EISS program is defined in the bill as a program that provides
25 rapid access to short term, recovery-oriented crisis intervention and
26 crisis stabilization services for up to 30 days to an individual 18 years
27 of age or older with a serious mental illness and includes, but is not
28 limited to, medication, therapy, and case management services, which
29 are offered at an on-site location, other than a hospital, or through
30 outreach in the community. The bill requires that an EISS program be
31 available to provide services 14 hours per day, seven days a week.

32 EISS Programs are designed to provide the crisis intervention and
33 stabilization services needed to help prevent the recurrence of a crisis
34 and to reduce overutilization of hospital emergency departments for a
35 behavioral health crisis. Additionally, as amended, the bill requires
36 that the Department of Human Services (DHS) coordinate with each
37 county EISS program in the State to provide for education about the
38 program, and accessibility to the program, to members of the public
39 served by that county program and to those organizations or persons
40 who may be the source of referrals to that program. Each EISS
41 program will be required to establish a written affiliation with at least
42 one screening service that serves the county in which the program
43 operates.

44 The bill also provides that DHS is to utilize the moneys available
45 to it for the program to ensure that funding is available for expanding
46 the program to each county in the State and expanding programs in
47 existence on the effective date of this bill, based on the needs of the
48 program to provide services.

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1 The bill requires DHS to collect information from each EISS
2 Program in the State, including information about the services
3 provided, their utilization, and the number of individuals who have
4 been stabilized and referred to treatment. Based on the information
5 collected, the DHS is to issue annual reports to the Governor and to the
6 Legislature, which reports are to include a review and analysis of each
7 program and any recommendations for improvement.