

SENATE, No. 2492

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 28, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Madden

SYNOPSIS

Establishes public awareness campaign concerning programs and services for first responders, healthcare workers, and other frontline workers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder during COVID-19 pandemic.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 7/22/2020)

1 AN ACT establishing a public awareness campaign concerning first
2 responders, healthcare workers, and other frontline workers
3 suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and supplementing
4 Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

5
6 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
7 *of New Jersey:*

8
9 1. a. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish a
10 public awareness campaign to provide information to the general
11 public concerning the programs and services available for first
12 responders, healthcare workers, and other frontline workers
13 suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder due to the coronavirus
14 disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

15 b. The commissioner, in establishing the public awareness
16 campaign, shall develop outreach efforts and provide information to
17 the general public on:

18 (1) the link between post-traumatic stress disorder and the
19 COVID-19 pandemic;

20 (2) resources for first responders, healthcare workers, and other
21 frontline workers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder,
22 including the programs and provided by the Department of Human
23 Services and other federal, State, and local social services and
24 mental health agencies during the COVID-19 pandemic;

25 (3) any telephone helpline established by the Department of
26 Human Services for first responders, healthcare workers, and other
27 frontline workers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder; and

28 (4) anxiety reducing strategies and other methods to manage
29 stress, depression, and other symptoms of post-traumatic stress
30 disorder during the COVID-19 pandemic.

31 c. The public awareness campaign shall target the general
32 public and first responders, healthcare workers, and other frontline
33 workers with post-traumatic stress disorder through a variety of
34 media, including television, radio, print, and on the Department of
35 Human Service's Internet website.

36 d. The commissioner shall provide for the development of
37 advertisements, by signs, billboards, placards, posters and displays
38 placed on New Jersey Transit bus, rail, and light rail system, in
39 English and Spanish, on the public awareness campaign established
40 pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

41
42 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

43
44

45 STATEMENT

46

47 This bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to
48 establish a public awareness campaign to provide information to the

1 general public concerning the programs and services available for
2 first responders, healthcare workers, and other frontline workers
3 suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder due to the coronavirus
4 disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

5 In establishing the public awareness campaign, the commissioner
6 would be required to develop outreach efforts and provide
7 information to the general public on: the link between post-
8 traumatic stress disorder and the COVID-19 pandemic; resources
9 for first responders, healthcare workers, and other frontline workers
10 suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, including the
11 programs and services provided by the Department of Human
12 Services (DHS) and other federal, State, and local social services
13 and mental health agencies during the COVID-19 pandemic; any
14 telephone helpline established by the Department of Human
15 Services for first responders, healthcare workers, and other frontline
16 workers suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder; and anxiety
17 reducing strategies and other methods to manage stress, depression,
18 and other symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder during the
19 COVID-19 pandemic.

20 Under the provisions of the bill: the public awareness campaign
21 would target the general public and first responders, healthcare
22 workers, and other frontline workers suffering from post-traumatic
23 stress disorder through a variety of media, including television,
24 radio, print, and on the DHS's Internet website; and the
25 commissioner would provide for the development of
26 advertisements, by signs, billboards, placards, posters and displays
27 placed on New Jersey Transit bus, rail, and light rail system, in
28 English and Spanish, on the public awareness campaign.