

# SENATE, No. 2574

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 15, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO**

**District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Allows in-person visitation for immediate family members and legal guardians of residents of community-based residential programs and group homes during COVID-19 pandemic.

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning certain community-based residential programs  
2 and group homes and supplementing Title 30 of the Revised  
3 Statutes.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
6 *of New Jersey:*

7  
8 1. As used in this act:

9 “Community-based residential program” means a developmental  
10 center, supervised apartment, community care residence, nursing  
11 home or any other residential setting, which is licensed and  
12 regulated by the Department of Human Services.

13 “Group home” means a living arrangement that is operated in a  
14 residence or residences leased or owned by an individual licensed  
15 by the Department of Human Services; which provides the  
16 opportunity for individuals with developmental disabilities to live  
17 together in a home, sharing in chores and the overall management  
18 of the residence; and in which staff provides supervision, training,  
19 or assistance in a variety of forms and intensity as required to assist  
20 the individuals as they move toward independence.

21 “Resident” means any child or adult whose primary residence is  
22 a community-based residential program or group home that is  
23 operated by, or under contract with, the Department of Human  
24 Services.

25  
26 2. a. During the public health emergency declared pursuant to  
27 P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.) in response to the coronavirus  
28 disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Department of Human Services shall  
29 require the operator of a community-based residential program or  
30 group home to allow in-person visitation between a resident of the  
31 community-based residential program or group home and the  
32 resident’s immediate family members and legal guardian.

33 b. Each visitor of a resident of a community-based residential  
34 program or group home pursuant to subsection a. of this section  
35 shall be subject to all restrictions and limitations imposed by the  
36 department in response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-  
37 19), which may , but not limited to requiring each visitor to:

38 (1) undergo a complete screening for exposure to, or symptoms  
39 of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19);

40 (2) practice social distancing, including maintaining a six foot  
41 distance between the visitor and all residents and staff while in, or  
42 on the premises of, the community-based residential program or  
43 group home; and

44 (3) wear a non-medical facial covering while in, or on the  
45 premises of, the community-based residential program or group  
46 home.

1       3. The Department of Human Services, pursuant to the  
2 "Administrative Procedures Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
3 seq.) shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the  
4 purposes of this act.

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6       4. This act shall take effect immediately.  
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9                               STATEMENT  
10

11       This bill requires that during the public health emergency  
12 declared pursuant to P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et seq.) in response  
13 to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Department of  
14 Human Services (DHS) would require the operator of a community-  
15 based residential program or group home to allow in-person  
16 visitation between a resident of the community-based residential  
17 program or group home and the resident's immediate family  
18 members and legal guardian.

19       As used in the bill: "community-based residential program  
20 means a developmental center, supervised apartment, community  
21 care residence, nursing home or any other residential setting, which  
22 is licensed and regulated by the DHS; "group home" means a living  
23 arrangement that is operated in a residence or residences leased or  
24 owned by an individual licensed by the DHS; which provides the  
25 opportunity for individuals with developmental disabilities to live  
26 together in a home, sharing in chores and the overall management  
27 of the residence; and in which staff provides supervision, training,  
28 or assistance in a variety of forms and intensity as required to assist  
29 the individuals as they move toward independence; and "resident"  
30 means any child or adult whose primary residence is a community-  
31 based residential program or group home that is operated by, or  
32 under contract with, the DHS.

33       Specifically, the bill stipulates that each visitor of a resident of a  
34 community-based residential program or group home would be  
35 subject to all restrictions and limitations imposed by the DHS in  
36 response to the public health emergency, which may include, but  
37 not limited to, requiring each visitor to: undergo a complete  
38 screening for exposure to, or symptoms of COVID-19; practice  
39 social distancing, including maintaining a six foot distance between  
40 the visitor and all residents and staff while in, or on the premises of,  
41 the community-based residential program or group home; and wear  
42 a non-medical facial covering while in, or on the premises of, the  
43 program or home.