

ASSEMBLY, No. 2519

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 5, 1996

By Assemblyman AZZOLINA

1 AN ACT establishing a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program and  
2 supplementing Title 52 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. The Legislature finds and declares that the Sexual Assault Nurse  
8 Examiner Model Project established pursuant to P.L.1995, c.187 and  
9 approved on July 27, 1995, will expire on July 27, 1997. The project  
10 has been successful in ensuring more timely and accurate collection of  
11 forensic evidence for use in prosecuting suspected rapists and in  
12 creating a compassionate way to treat sexual assault victims, and it is  
13 important to establish the program permanently.

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15 2. a. The Chief of the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy in the  
16 Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public  
17 Safety shall oversee the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program in  
18 Monmouth county, established pursuant to P.L.1995, c.187. The chief  
19 may contract with any agency, organization or other entity, as  
20 appropriate, to effectuate the purposes of this act, and that agency  
21 organization or other entity shall seek, to the maximum extent  
22 practicable, to obtain funds from nongovernmental sources as a  
23 supplement to State funds appropriated to operate the program.

24 b. The program shall be designed to use forensic nurse sexual  
25 assault examiners, who shall be registered professional nurses or nurse  
26 practitioners/clinical nurse specialists licensed in this State and trained  
27 in forensic science, in accordance with regulations adopted by the New  
28 Jersey Board of Nursing with the approval of the Attorney General, to  
29 perform sexual assault examinations in an area of the hospital  
30 designated solely for sexual assault examinations. The program shall  
31 work cooperatively with the rape crisis center operated by the  
32 Women's Center of Monmouth County, Inc., in providing assistance  
33 to each victim. A representative of the county prosecutor's office or  
34 the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy shall meet with each victim,  
35 and counseling and other appropriate services pursuant to subsection  
36 c. of section 6 of P.L.1985, c.404 (C.52:4B-44c) shall be provided to  
37 each victim. The program shall provide the victim with the

1 opportunity to tend to personal hygiene needs and to obtain fresh  
2 clothing, as appropriate.

3 c. The program staff shall offer assistance to other counties which  
4 may be interested in participating in the program.

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6 3. The Attorney General, pursuant to the "Administrative  
7 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall adopt  
8 rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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10 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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15 P.L.1995, c.187 established a two-year Sexual Assault Nurse  
16 Examiner Model Project which will expire on July 27, 1997. This bill  
17 permanently establishes the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program.

18 The project was established in Monmouth county by the Chief of  
19 the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy in the Division of Criminal  
20 Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

21 The program is designed to use forensic nurse sexual assault  
22 examiners, who are registered professional nurses or nurse  
23 practitioner/clinical nurse specialists licensed in the State and trained  
24 in forensic science, in accordance with regulations adopted by the New  
25 Jersey Board of Nursing with the approval of the Attorney General, to  
26 perform sexual assault examinations in an area of the hospital  
27 designated solely for sexual assault examinations. The program shall  
28 continue to work cooperatively with the rape crisis center operated by  
29 the Women's Center of Monmouth County, Inc., in providing  
30 assistance to each victim. A representative of the county prosecutor's  
31 office or the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy shall meet with each  
32 victim, and counseling and other appropriate services pursuant to  
33 subsection c. of section 6 of P.L.1985, c.404 (C.52:4B-44c) shall be  
34 provided to each victim. The program shall provide the victim with  
35 the opportunity to tend to personal hygiene needs and to obtain fresh  
36 clothing, as appropriate.

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Creates a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program.