

[Passed Both Houses]

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2519

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 5, 1996

By Assemblyman AZZOLINA, Assemblywoman Buono,
Assemblymen Blee, Felice, Barnes and Assemblywoman Heck

1 AN ACT establishing a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program ¹[and]
2 ¹ supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes ¹and
3 making an appropriation¹.

4

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

7

8 1. The Legislature finds and declares that the Sexual Assault Nurse
9 Examiner Model Project established pursuant to P.L.1995, c.187 and
10 approved on July 27, 1995, will expire on July 27, 1997. The project
11 has been successful in ensuring more timely and accurate collection of
12 forensic evidence for use in prosecuting suspected rapists and in
13 creating a compassionate way to treat sexual assault victims, and it is
14 important to ²[establish] continue² the program ²[permanently]².

15

16 2. a. ¹The Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Model Project
17 established pursuant to P.L.1995, c.187 is continued in accordance
18 with the provisions of this act and shall be designated as the Sexual
19 Assault Nurse Examiner Program in Monmouth county.¹ The Chief
20 of the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy in the Division of Criminal
21 Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety shall oversee the
22 ¹[Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program in Monmouth county,
23 established pursuant to P.L.1995, c.187] program in consultation with
24 an advisory committee comprised of: the person designated by the
25 advisory committee to serve as the program coordinator, and a
26 representative from at least each of the following: the Attorney
27 General, ²the Division on Women in the Department of Community

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly AHL committee amendments adopted February 10, 1997.

² Senate SWF committee amendments adopted November 17, 1997.

1 Affairs,² each hospital participating in the program, the Women's
2 Center of Monmouth County, Inc., a law enforcement agency within
3 the county, and the county prosecutor's office¹. The chief may
4 contract with any agency, organization or other entity, as appropriate,
5 to effectuate the purposes of this act, and that agency organization or
6 other entity shall seek, to the maximum extent practicable, to obtain
7 funds from nongovernmental sources as a supplement to State funds
8 appropriated to operate the program.

9 b. The program shall be designed to use forensic nurse sexual
10 assault examiners, who shall be registered professional nurses or nurse
11 practitioners/clinical nurse specialists licensed in this State and trained
12 in forensic science, in accordance with regulations adopted by the New
13 Jersey Board of Nursing with the approval of the Attorney General, to
14 perform sexual assault examinations in an area of the hospital
15 designated solely for sexual assault examinations. The program shall
16 work cooperatively with the rape crisis center operated by the
17 Women's Center of Monmouth County, Inc., in providing assistance
18 to each victim. A representative of the county prosecutor's office or
19 the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy shall meet with each victim,
20 and counseling and other appropriate services pursuant to subsection
21 c. of section 6 of P.L.1985, c.404 (C.52:4B-44c) shall be provided to
22 each victim. The program shall provide the victim with the
23 opportunity to tend to personal hygiene needs and to obtain fresh
24 clothing, as appropriate.

25 c. The program staff shall offer assistance to other counties which
26 may be interested in ¹[participating in the] establishing a similar¹
27 program.

28
29 ¹3. There is appropriated \$90,000 from the General Fund to the
30 Department of Law and Public Safety to carry out the provisions of
31 this act.¹

32
33 ¹[3.] 4.¹ The Attorney General, pursuant to the "Administrative
34 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), ²[shall] may²
35 adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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37
38 ¹[4.]5.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

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40
41
42
43 _____
44 Creates a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program; appropriates
\$90,000.