

SENATE, No. 172

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Senators McGREEVEY and CODEY

1 AN ACT concerning a study of State psychiatric hospitals and
2 developmental centers, rooming and boarding houses, community
3 residences for the developmentally disabled and mentally ill, and
4 residential health care facilities, and making an appropriation
5 therefor.

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

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10 1. a. The Commissioners of Human Services and Health shall
11 jointly authorize an independent public or private agency or
12 organization to prepare a report concerning the services provided by
13 each State psychiatric hospital or State developmental center listed in
14 R.S.30:1-7 and a representative number of each of the following living
15 arrangements: a rooming or boarding house as defined in section 3 of
16 the "Rooming and Boarding House Act of 1979," P.L.1979, c.496
17 (C.55:13B-3), a community residence for the developmentally disabled
18 and community residence for the mentally ill as defined in section 2 of
19 P.L.1977, c.448 (C.30:11B-2), and a residential health care facility as
20 defined in section 1 of P.L.1953, c.212 (C.30:11A-1).

21 b. The report shall evaluate the services provided by each facility
22 or living arrangement provided for in subsection a. of this section,
23 including but not limited to, the ability of the facility or living
24 arrangement to provide patients or residents with any necessary
25 medications and with assistance with meals, personal hygiene needs,
26 personal financial matters, or other personal needs, as appropriate.

27 c. In addition, the report shall include a study of patients who were
28 discharged from a State psychiatric hospital listed in R.S.30:1-7 during
29 the two-year period preceding the effective date of this act. The
30 agency or organization shall solicit information, by municipality, from
31 community mental health agencies, case managers and other
32 community mental health personnel regarding the number of former
33 patients of a State psychiatric hospital discharged to the municipality;
34 the ability of mental health, medical, residential and support services
35 to provide access to needed services for those patients within 30 days

1 of their discharge; the number of former patients receiving inadequate
2 services; the rate of readmission to a State psychiatric hospital or
3 admission to a private hospital or other facility among these persons;
4 and the incidence of correctional detention or incarceration among
5 these persons. The report shall also include data from community
6 mental health agencies concerning their ability to provide needed
7 services to patients discharged from a facility, including the number of
8 patients served by the agency, the types of services provided, and the
9 municipalities to which these services are provided. In addition, the
10 agency or organization preparing the report shall receive from
11 communities that have been impacted by the presence of patients
12 discharged from a State psychiatric hospital, information about the
13 nature and extent of that impact.

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15 2. The independent public or private agency or organization
16 preparing a report pursuant to section 1 of this act shall complete its
17 report within 12 months of being authorized to prepare the report.
18 The Commissioners of Human Services and Health shall submit the
19 report to the Governor and the Legislature.

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21 3. There is appropriated \$95,000 from the General Fund to the
22 Department of Human Services to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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24 4. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire upon
25 submission of the report to the Governor and Legislature.

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STATEMENT

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30 This bill requires the Commissioners of Human Services and Health
31 to jointly authorize an independent public or private agency or
32 organization to prepare a report concerning the services provided by
33 each State psychiatric hospital or State developmental center listed in
34 R.S.30:1-7 and a representative number of each of the following living
35 arrangements: a rooming or boarding house as defined in section 3 of
36 the "Rooming and Boarding House Act of 1979," P.L.1979, c.496
37 (C.55:13B-3), a community residence for the developmentally disabled
38 and community residence for the mentally ill as defined in section 2 of
39 P.L. 1977, c.448 (C.30:11B-2), and a residential health care facility as
40 defined in section 1 of P.L.1953, c.212 (C.30:11A-1).

41 In addition, the report shall include a study of patients who were
42 discharged from a State psychiatric hospital during the two-year
43 period preceding the effective date of this bill. This information shall
44 be solicited, by municipality, from community mental health agencies,
45 case managers and other community mental health personnel.

46 The purpose of the report is to evaluate independently the

1 performance of the existing State institutions and the mechanisms that
2 currently are available for deinstitutionalized residents and patients
3 prior to making any major policy changes which would affect some of
4 the most vulnerable populations in our State.

5 Specifically, the report shall be designed to evaluate the services
6 provided by each facility or living arrangement, including but not
7 limited to, the ability to provide patients or residents with any
8 necessary medications and with assistance with meals, personal
9 hygiene needs, personal financial matters, or other personal needs, as
10 appropriate.

11 With respect to patients discharged from a State psychiatric
12 hospital, the report is to contain information regarding the number of
13 former mental patients and developmentally disabled residents living
14 in the municipality, the ability of mental health, medical, residential
15 and developmental disability support services to provide access to
16 needed services for those former patients or residents within 30 days
17 of their leaving the psychiatric hospital, the number of former patients
18 or residents receiving inadequate services, the rate of readmission to
19 a State psychiatric hospital or developmental center or admission to a
20 private hospital or other facility, and the incidence of correctional
21 detention or incarceration among these persons.

22 The agency or organization preparing the report also shall receive
23 information from communities that have been impacted by the
24 presence of patients discharged from a State psychiatric hospital.

25 The bill requires the agency or organization preparing the report to
26 complete its report within 12 months of being authorized to prepare
27 the report. The report shall be submitted to the Governor and the
28 Legislature.

29 Lastly, the bill appropriates \$95,000 from the General Fund for the
30 report preparation.

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35 Requires independent report on State institutions and other facilities
36 and impact of patients discharged from State psychiatric hospitals;
37 appropriates \$95,000.