

SENATE, No. 1524

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 3, 1996

By Senator MacINNES

1 AN ACT concerning civil immunity for certain nonprofit corporations
2 and volunteers and supplementing Title 2A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

7
8 1. a. As used in this act:

9 (1) "Critical stress incident debriefing" means a program which :

10 (a) Provides debriefing sessions to emergency service personnel in
11 an effort to address critical incident stress;

12 (b) Assists in providing the emotional and educational support
13 necessary to ensure the optimal functioning of emergency services
14 personnel; and

15 (c) Conducts educational programs to acquaint emergency service
16 personnel with stress management techniques.

17 (2) "Emergency service personnel" includes law enforcement
18 officers; firemen, whether paid or volunteer; emergency, first aid or
19 rescue squad members, whether paid or volunteer; and members of any
20 other organization which provides emergency first aid and rescue
21 services.

22 b. (1) No nonprofit corporation or association which operates a
23 critical incident stress debriefing program for emergency service
24 personnel shall be liable in any civil action for damages as the result of
25 any act of commission or omission arising out of and in the course of
26 the rendition in good faith of any services in connection with such a
27 program.

28 (2) No person who serves in a volunteer capacity with any
29 nonprofit corporation or association which operates a critical incident
30 stress debriefing program shall be liable in any civil action for damages
31 as the result of any act of commission or omission arising out of and
32 in the course of the volunteer rendering in good faith any such
33 counseling services.

34 c. (1) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to grant immunity
35 to any person causing damage by his willful, wanton or grossly
36 negligent act of commission or omission.

37 (2) Nothing in this section shall be deemed to grant immunity to

1 any person causing damage as the result of the negligent operation of
2 a motor vehicle.

3

4 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

5

6

7

STATEMENT

8

9 This bill would grant civil immunity to any nonprofit corporation
10 which operates a critical incident stress debriefing program for
11 emergency services personnel such as police officers, firemen and
12 rescue and first aid squad members. The immunity provided by this
13 bill would also extend to persons who act as volunteers with nonprofit
14 organizations which operate such programs.

15

16

17

18

19 Provides civil immunity to nonprofit corporations which operate
20 counseling programs for emergency service personnel.