

SENATE, No. 1758

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 19, 1996

By Senator BASSANO

1 AN ACT concerning reporting patient abuse and professional  
2 misconduct at State psychiatric hospitals and supplementing chapter  
3 24 of Title 2C of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7  
8 1. a. Any employee of a State psychiatric hospital who knowingly  
9 fails to report to the Commissioner of Human Services, or his  
10 designee, that a patient in the hospital is being or has been abused by  
11 any other employee of the hospital, by another patient in the hospital  
12 or by any other person, shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense.

13 b. Any employee of a State psychiatric hospital who knowingly  
14 fails to report to the Commissioner of Human Services, or his  
15 designee, that a clinical treatment staff or nursing direct care staff  
16 member working at a State psychiatric hospital has or is engaging in  
17 professional misconduct, shall be guilty of a disorderly persons  
18 offense.

19 c. As used in this section:

20 "Clinical treatment staff" means a physician, psychiatrist,  
21 psychologist, physical therapist or social worker licensed pursuant to  
22 Title 45 of the Revised Statutes, an occupational, recreation, art or  
23 music therapist or a substance abuse counselor.

24 "Employee" means a person employed by the State to work at a  
25 State psychiatric hospital or a person employed by a private entity  
26 under contract with the State to provide contracted services at a State  
27 psychiatric hospital.

28 "Nursing direct care staff" means a Human Services Assistant,  
29 Human Services Technician, or a nurse licensed pursuant to Title 45  
30 of the Revised Statutes.

31 "State psychiatric hospital" means a psychiatric hospital listed in  
32 R.S.30:1-7. This act shall take effect immediately.

33  
34 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14

STATEMENT

This bill provides that any employee of a State psychiatric hospital who knowingly fails to report patient abuse or professional misconduct shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense. A disorderly persons offense is punishable by up to six months imprisonment and a fine of up to \$1,000.

---

Provides that knowingly failing to report patient abuse or professional misconduct in a State psychiatric hospital is a disorderly persons offense.