

SENATE, No. 1983

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED APRIL 17, 1997

By Senators BARK and MATHEUSSEN

1 AN ACT concerning community residences for mentally ill adults and
2 supplementing Title 30 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. A community residence for the mentally ill which is licensed by
8 the Department of Human Services pursuant to P.L.1977, c.448
9 (C.30:11B-1 et seq.) and which serves adults with serious and
10 persistent mental illness shall ensure that there is at least one staff
11 person on duty at the residence 24-hours a day. For the purposes of
12 this act, "an adult with a serious and persistent mental illness" means
13 an adult who experiences symptoms of schizophrenia, a major affective
14 disorder, or a borderline personality disorder for longer than six
15 months; the adult has experienced two or more hospitalizations or
16 crisis service interventions; and the adult's functioning is impaired as
17 a result of the illness. The Commissioner of Human Services shall
18 adopt regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
19 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) which shall ensure provision of
20 adequate staffing for these residences.

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22 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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27 This bill requires a community residence for the mentally ill which
28 serves adults with serious and persistent mental illness and which is
29 licensed by the Department of Human Services pursuant to P.L.1977,
30 c.448 (C.30:11B-1 et seq.) to ensure that there is at least one staff
31 person on duty at the residence 24-hours a day.

32 The bill defines "an adult with a serious and persistent mental
33 illness" to mean an adult who experiences symptoms of schizophrenia,
34 a major affective disorder, or a borderline personality disorder for
35 longer than six months; the adult has experienced two or more
36 hospitalizations or crisis service interventions; and the adult's
37 functioning is impaired as a result of the illness.

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3 Establishes 24-hour a day staffing requirement at community
4 residences for the mentally ill.