

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4174

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 1, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ANTHONY S. VERRELLI

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

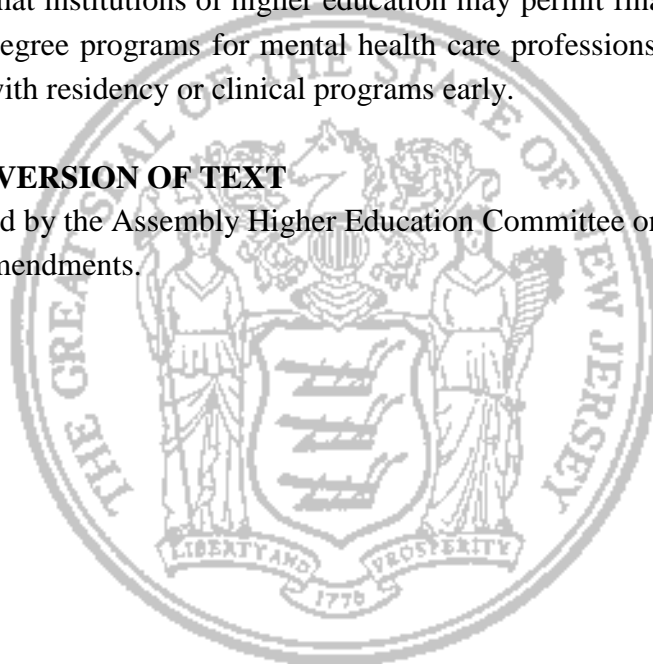
Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Jasey, Timberlake, Assemblymen Greenwald, Houghtaling, Assemblywomen Downey, Swain, Assemblyman Tully and Assemblywoman Mosquera

SYNOPSIS

Provides that institutions of higher education may permit final-year students in graduate degree programs for mental health care professions to graduate or be matched with residency or clinical programs early.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Higher Education Committee on December 14, 2020, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/1/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning the demand for mental health care professionals
2 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

3

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

6

7 1. ¹a.¹ Notwithstanding any law or regulation to the contrary, for
8 the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 academic years, an institution of higher
9 education, at its discretion, may permit a final-year student in a
10 graduate degree program leading to a degree as a mental health care
11 professional to graduate early or to be matched with a residency or
12 clinical program early ¹provided that:

13 (1) the student has completed all required coursework; and

14 (2) the institution appoints a staff member to mentor the student
15 during participation in the residency or clinical program¹.

16 ¹b.¹ As used in this section, “mental health care professional”
17 means a licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, professional counselor,
18 clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or any other
19 individual licensed or certified by this State to provide or administer
20 mental health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a
21 profession.

22

23 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AHI committee amendments adopted December 14, 2020.