

ASSEMBLY, No. 5302

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ERIC HOUGHTALING

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY

District 11 (Monmouth)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Requires director of State Office of Emergency Management to designate emergency response liaison for people with special needs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/8/2021)

A5302 HOUGHTALING, DOWNEY

2

1 AN ACT concerning the State Office of Emergency Management
2 emergency response for people with special needs and amending
3 P.L.1989, c.222.

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

7
8 1. Section 18 of P.L.1989, c.222 (C.App.A:9:43-1) is amended
9 to read as follows:

10 18. The State Office of Emergency Management shall adopt a
11 State Emergency Operations Plan, including rules, regulations, and
12 guidelines, that shall be reviewed and updated at least every two
13 years.

14 a. The plan shall include, but not be limited to, provisions
15 which shall be developed in consultation with:

16 (1) the Department of Agriculture, to support the needs of
17 animals and individuals with an animal under their care, including
18 domestic livestock, a domesticated animal, or a service animal, in a
19 major disaster or emergency; and

20 (2) the Department of Health, to provide for a coordinated
21 Statewide evacuation strategy for all hospitals and other health care
22 facilities in the State, alternative sources of care for evacuated
23 patients, and proposed sites of temporary shelter in the event of an
24 emergency. The Statewide evacuation strategy shall be based on
25 evacuation plans prepared pursuant to section 19 of P.L.1989, c.222
26 (C.App.A:9-43.2) and submitted to the State Office of Emergency
27 Management by each county and municipality in the State pursuant
28 to section 21 of P.L.1989, c.222 (C.App.A:9-43.4).

29 b. The plan shall:

30 (1) include provisions that specifically address the need for the
31 safe and timely evacuation of the families and dependents of the
32 emergency responders rendering major disaster or emergency
33 services; and

34 (2) incorporate the results of the risk assessment conducted in
35 accordance with the county storm preparedness funding program
36 established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2017, c.63 (C.App.A:9-
37 43.17).

38 c. In addition, the State Office of Emergency Management and
39 each county and municipal emergency management agency shall
40 take appropriate steps to educate the public regarding the resources
41 available in the event of an emergency and the importance of
42 emergency preparedness planning.

43 d. The director of the State Office of Emergency Management
44 shall designate a current employee of the State Office of Emergency
45 Management as a “Special Needs Liaison” who shall have the

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.

1 function, power, and duty to coordinate and work in conjunction
2 with local officials and oversee emergency responses for people
3 with special needs, as defined by P.L.2011, c.187, s.1. (C.App.A:9-
4 43.8). The liaison shall ensure that all emergency plans take into
5 account the dissemination of pertinent information, necessary
6 awareness efforts, safety measures, evacuation measures if
7 necessary, and the survival of people with special needs.
8 (cf: P.L.2017, c.63, s.3)

9
10 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

15 This bill requires the director of the State Office of Emergency
16 Management to designate an emergency response liaison for people
17 with special needs who will coordinate and oversee emergency
18 responses for people with special needs.