

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 277, *approved November 8, 2021*
Senate, No. 3032

1 **AN ACT** concerning nursing homes and supplementing Title 26 of
2 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. The Department of Health shall conduct a Statewide
8 nursing home infection control and prevention infrastructure
9 assessment, which assessment shall include, at a minimum:

10 (1) a count of the total number of single-resident rooms in
11 nursing homes, a determination as to what percentage of the total
12 number of authorized nursing home beds in New Jersey are utilized
13 in single-resident rooms, and a review of the ability of nursing
14 homes to convert multiple-resident rooms to single-resident rooms
15 or otherwise expand the number of single-resident rooms;

16 (2) a survey of the maintenance status of heating, ventilating, air
17 conditioning, and refrigeration systems in nursing homes;

18 (3) a study of the utilization of negative pressure rooms and
19 other physical plant features that are designed or may be
20 implemented to increase infection control and prevention capability
21 in nursing homes; and

22 (4) any other infrastructure-related infection control or
23 prevention considerations as are recommended for assessment by
24 the New Jersey Task Force on Long-Term Care Quality and Safety
25 established pursuant to P.L.2020, c.88. No later than 30 days after
26 the effective date of this act, the Department of Health shall request
27 that the New Jersey Task Force on Long-Term Care Quality and
28 Safety provide the department with recommendations for
29 infrastructure-related infection control and prevention
30 considerations to be assessed pursuant to this section, which
31 recommendations shall be provided by the task force to the
32 department no later than 30 days after the date of the request.

33 b. The assessment required under subsection a. of this section
34 shall be completed no later than one year after the effective date of
35 this act.

36 c. No later than 180 days after completing the assessment
37 required pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the department
38 shall develop a Statewide nursing home infection control and
39 prevention infrastructure improvement plan, which plan shall:

40 (1) establish standards and requirements for improvements to
41 the infrastructure in nursing homes to improve infection control and
42 prevention and to ensure the nursing homes are primarily focused
43 on resident safety and the quality of services provided to residents;

1 (2) establish a long-term strategy to redesign the nursing home
2 industry in New Jersey to ensure the system is primarily focused on
3 resident safety and the quality of services provided to residents,
4 which strategy shall include design and construction standards for
5 new facilities and facilities undergoing significant modifications;

6 (3) review and seek to incorporate best practice standards in
7 place in other states; and

8 (4) establish specific goals and timelines for improvements,
9 which shall take into account the age of the facilities, the
10 availability of land for expansion or new construction, the costs of
11 improvements, and the authorizations that would be required.

12 In developing the Statewide nursing home infection control and
13 prevention infrastructure improvement plan pursuant to this
14 subsection, the department shall consult with representatives from
15 the nursing home industry, including representatives from for-profit
16 and non-profit facilities, groups representing nursing home workers,
17 including both direct care providers and support staff, resident
18 advocates, and the families of residents.

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20 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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23 STATEMENT

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25 This bill requires the Department of Health to conduct a
26 Statewide nursing home infection control and prevention
27 infrastructure assessment and, based on that assessment, develop a
28 Statewide nursing home infection control and prevention
29 infrastructure improvement plan.

30 At a minimum, the assessment will include: (1) a count of the
31 total number of single-resident rooms in nursing homes in the State
32 and the percentage of total nursing home beds that are utilized in
33 single-resident rooms, as well as a review of the ability of nursing
34 homes to expand single-resident room capacity;

35 (2) a survey of the maintenance status of heating, ventilating, air
36 conditioning, and refrigeration systems in nursing homes;

37 (3) a study of the utilization of negative pressure rooms and
38 other physical plant features that are designed or may be
39 implemented to increase infection control and prevention capability
40 in nursing homes; and

41 (4) any other infrastructure-related infection control or
42 prevention considerations as are recommended for assessment by
43 the New Jersey Task Force on Long-Term Care Quality and Safety
44 established pursuant to P.L.2020, c.88. The bill expressly requires
45 the department to request recommendations from the task force.

46 The assessment is to be completed within one year after the
47 effective date of the bill.

1 No later than 180 days after the assessment is completed, the
2 department will be required to develop a Statewide nursing home
3 infection control and prevention infrastructure improvement plan,
4 which plan is to:

5 (1) establish standards and requirements for improvements to
6 the infrastructure in nursing homes to improve infection control and
7 prevention and to ensure the nursing homes are primarily focused
8 on resident safety and the quality of services provided to residents;

9 (2) establish a long-term strategy to redesign the nursing home
10 industry in New Jersey to ensure the industry is primarily focused
11 on resident safety and the quality of services provided to residents,
12 which strategy will include design and construction standards for
13 new facilities and facilities undergoing significant modifications;

14 (3) review and seek to incorporate best practice standards in
15 place in other states; and

16 (4) establish specific goals and timelines for improvements,
17 which will take into account the age of the facilities, the availability
18 of land for expansion or new construction, the costs of
19 improvements, and the authorizations that would be required.

20 In developing the Statewide plan, the department will be required
21 to consult with representatives from the nursing home industry,
22 including representatives from for-profit and non-profit facilities,
23 groups representing both direct care providers and support staff in
24 nursing homes, resident advocates, and the families of residents.

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29 Requires DOH to develop Statewide plan for infection control
30 and prevention infrastructure improvements in nursing homes.