

**SENATE, No. 1676**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator BOB SMITH**

**District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Allows hospitals to construct housing and provide wrap-around services for homeless persons.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning hospitals, amending P.L.1992, c.160, and  
2 supplementing P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.).  
3

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

7 1. Section 19 of P.L.1992, c.160 (C.26:2H-7a) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 19. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7 of P.L.1971,  
10 c.136 (C.26:2H-7) to the contrary, the following are exempt from  
11 the certificate of need requirement:

12 Community-based primary care centers;  
13 Outpatient drug and alcohol services;  
14 Hospital-based medical detoxification for drugs and alcohol;  
15 Ambulance and invalid coach services;  
16 Mental health services which are non-bed related outpatient  
17 services;

18 Residential health care facility services;  
19 Dementia care homes;  
20 Capital improvements and renovations to health care facilities;  
21 Additions of medical/surgical, adult intensive care and adult  
22 critical care beds in hospitals;

23 Inpatient special psychiatric beds used solely for services for  
24 patients with co-occurring mental health and substance use  
25 disorders;

26 Housing and wrap-around services for the homeless provided  
27 pursuant to section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
28 Legislature as this bill);

29 Replacement of existing major moveable equipment;  
30 Inpatient operating rooms;  
31 Alternate family care programs;  
32 Hospital-based subacute care;  
33 Ambulatory care facilities;  
34 Comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation services;  
35 Special child health clinics;

36 New technology in accordance with the provisions of section 18  
37 of P.L.1998, c.43 (C.26:2H-7d);

38 Transfer of ownership interest except in the case of an acute care  
39 hospital;

40 Change of site for approved certificate of need within the same  
41 county;

42 Additions to vehicles or hours of operation of a mobile intensive  
43 care unit;

44 Relocation or replacement of a health care facility within the  
45 same county, except for an acute care hospital;

**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 Continuing care retirement communities authorized pursuant to  
2 P.L.1986, c.103 (C.52:27D-330 et seq.);

3 Magnetic resonance imaging;

4 Adult day health care facilities;

5 Pediatric day health care facilities;

6 Chronic or acute renal dialysis facilities; and

7 Transfer of ownership of a hospital to an authority in accordance  
8 with P.L.2006, c.46 (C.30:9-23.15 et al.).

9 (cf: P.L.2017, c.94)

10  
11 2. (New section) a. A general acute care hospital licensed  
12 pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) may adopt as part  
13 of its mission the goal of addressing issues related to homelessness.  
14 A hospital that chooses to address issues related to homelessness as  
15 part of its mission pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall be  
16 authorized to construct housing and provide wrap-around services  
17 for homeless persons who are treated at the hospital, which wrap-  
18 around services may include:

19 (1) referrals to outpatient primary care and behavioral health  
20 care services;

21 (2) appropriate follow-up care and treatment management  
22 assistance;

23 (3) assistance identifying and procuring sources of health  
24 benefits coverage, including, but not limited to, coverage under the  
25 State Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare programs pursuant to P.L.1968,  
26 c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.) and P.L.2005, c.156 (C.30:4J-1 et al.);  
27 and

28 (4) assistance in identifying and accessing appropriate social  
29 services, including, but not limited to, food, transportation, housing,  
30 employment, and child care assistance.

31 b. Housing for the homeless constructed by a hospital pursuant  
32 to subsection a. of this section shall be deemed a permitted use in  
33 all residential and nonresidential districts of a municipality and  
34 shall be exempt from local zoning restrictions.

35 c. Commencing one year after the date a hospital first  
36 constructs housing and begins providing wrap-around services for  
37 the homeless pursuant to subsection a. of this section, and annually  
38 thereafter, the hospital shall report to the Legislature, pursuant to  
39 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), concerning any  
40 reductions in the number of charity care admissions at the hospital  
41 over the previous year.

42  
43 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill authorizes general acute care hospitals to adopt, as part of their missions, the goal of addressing issues related to homelessness. A hospital that chooses to address issues related to homelessness will be authorized to construct housing and provide wrap-around services for homeless persons who are treated at the hospital, which wrap-around services may include:

(1) referrals to outpatient primary care and behavioral health care services;

(2) appropriate follow-up care and treatment management assistance;

(3) assistance identifying and procuring sources of health benefits coverage, including, but not limited to, coverage under the State Medicaid and NJ FamilyCare programs; and

(4) assistance in identifying and accessing appropriate social services, including, but not limited to, food, transportation, housing, employment, and child care assistance.

The provision of housing and wrap-around services for the homeless will be exempt from certificate of need requirements, and housing for the homeless constructed by a hospital will be deemed a permitted use in all residential and nonresidential districts of a municipality and will be exempt from local zoning restrictions.

A hospital that constructs housing and provides wrap-around services for the homeless will be required to submit annual reports to the Legislature concerning any reductions in the number of charity care admissions at the hospital over the previous year.