

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR  
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2701

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 7, 2020

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2701.

This bill would require the Department of Human Services (DHS) to develop and oversee the implementation of a public emergency response plan for persons and entities that are licensed to provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities (“licensed service providers”). The department will be required to develop the plan in consultation with the Department of Health (DOH), the Ombudsman for Individuals with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities and Their Families, licensed service providers, and the State Office of Emergency Management in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

At a minimum, the public emergency response plan is to:

1) establish guidelines and best practices for the general and specific operations, activities, and procedures that are to be undertaken or implemented by licensed service providers during a public emergency;

2) to the extent feasible, identify the means, methods, and channels through which relevant service providers and facilities will be able to obtain personal protective equipment (PPE) and other equipment or services that are critical to the maintenance of ongoing operations during the course of a public emergency;

3) address various possible public emergency scenarios and provide for the application of differing standards and best practices and the use of differing resource sourcing methods, as appropriate, for different types of public emergency, while highlighting the standards, best practices, and sourcing methods that are applicable for the purposes of any currently declared public emergency; and

4) be consistent with, and incorporate, any relevant guidance published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and any other federal agencies that are involved in the remediation of public emergencies.

The department will be required to: 1) prepare a public emergency response plan, as required by the bill, within 60 days after the date of the bill’s enactment; 2) review and revise the plan on at least a biennial

basis after the plan's initial preparation and as soon as is possible following the declaration of any new public emergency in the State; and 3) post the initial response plan and any revised response plan on the DHS Internet website.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 2701 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4138 (1R) which was also reported by the committee on this date.