

# NEW JERSEY ★ LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR ★

Office of LEGISLATIVE SERVICES • OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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## Vol. I No. 6 Internet Update II

Prepared: February 6, 2026

\*Denotes Changes

## CALENDAR SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Check Internet site or call this office for updated schedule

## 222<sup>nd</sup> Legislature

First Annual Session

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2026

#### **SENATE QUORUM Senate Chambers**

10:00 AM: Group (2) Committees scheduled to meet

#### **Senate Budget and Appropriations Meeting**

**Chair: Sen. Sarlo, Paul A.**

The Committee will not meet.

#### **Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Meeting**

**10:00 AM Committee Room 1, 1st Floor,**

**State House Annex, Trenton, NJ**

**Chair: Sen. Vitale, Joseph F.**

S850 [Singer, Robert W.], Public-Private Alliance to Retain Talent & Expand Regional Health Prog;\$5M

S1772 [Singleton, Troy/Beach, James+1], Emergency Medical Services, Statewide-requires DOH to develop

S2959 [Mukherji, Raj/Beach, James], MyNJHelps web-based platform-reformat as centralized online resource

S2977 [Vitale, Joseph F./McKnight, Angela V.+3], Children's meals served in restaurants-required to meet nutritional standards

S2996 [Vitale, Joseph F./Singleton, Troy+24], Nurses, advanced practice-eliminates certain practice restrictions for

S3007 [Vitale, Joseph F.], Emergency medical responders & medical technicians-provide for licensure

S3013 [Vitale, Joseph F./Gopal, Vin+4], Behavioral health crisis system of care-estab telecommunication fee to support

S3017 [Vitale, Joseph F./Singleton, Troy+3], Opioid Recovery & Remediation Advisory Council-implement strategic plan;\$45M

S3023 [Vitale, Joseph F.], Long-term care facilities/acute care hospitals-prov cert protections, residents

S3285 [Ruiz, M. Teresa], Baby boxes-various St dept prov info linkages & safe sleep education on websites

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

#### **SENATE QUORUM Senate Chambers**

Group (3) Committees scheduled to meet

#### **Senate Commerce Meeting 10:00 AM**

**Committee Room 6, 1st Floor, State House Annex, Trenton, NJ**

**Chair: Sen. Lagana, Joseph A.**

S818 [Singer, Robert W.+2], Div of Consumer Affairs-hire staff, alleviate prof lic application backlog;\$10M

S1032 [Bramnick, Jon M./Lagana, Joseph A.+1], Health insur carrier network adequacy standards-estab addl, cert specialists

S1382 [Lagana, Joseph A./Bramnick, Jon M.], Automobile insur policies-revises personal protection coverage from \$15K to \$50K

S1388 [Lagana, Joseph A./Scutari, Nicholas P.+1], Health club svcs contracts-proh limiting liability, injury caused by negligence

S1395 [Lagana, Joseph A./McKnight, Angela V.], Limited liability company-allow to terminate alternate name

S1417 [Lagana, Joseph A.], Arbitration proceedings-parties represented by attorneys, certain circumstances

S1493 [Cryan, Joseph P.], Occupational therapy-update requirements for licensure

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 (continued)

#### **Senate Commerce Meeting (continued)**

S2777 [Johnson, Gordon M./Lagana, Joseph A.+3], Physicians in good standing-req automatic issuance of credential, provide svcs

S2834 [McKnight, Angela V.+1], Elevator, escalator, & moving walkway mechanic lic-revises out-of-St reciprocity

S3306 [Ruiz, M. Teresa], Health club svc-require notification to member, contract sold to new owner

#### **Senate Economic Growth Meeting 10:30 AM**

**Committee Room 4, 1st Floor, State House Annex, Trenton, NJ**

**Chair: Sen. Cruz-Perez, Nilsa I.**

S731 [Burzichelli, John J./McKeon, John F.+1], Electric public utilities-develop and apply special tariff for data centers

S1082 [Cruz-Perez, Nilsa I./Corrado, Kristin M.+2], Jersey Craft Beverage Retailer Promotion & Grant Program-establish

S1837 [Singleton, Troy], Child care expenses for children of employees, certain-establish tax credit

S2165 [Moriarty, Paul D.], Saving Our Diners & Protecting Our Past Act-provide certain tax incentives

S2189 [Zwicker, Andrew/Burzichelli, John J.], Advanced transmission technologies-require BPU study potential deployment

#### **Senate Environment and Energy Meeting 10:00 AM**

**Committee Room 10, 3rd Floor, State House Annex, Trenton, NJ**

**Chair: Sen. Smith, Bob**

S309 [Cruz-Perez, Nilsa I./Turner, Shirley K.+1], Lakes, certain State owned-req DEP provide public access for boats;\$2M

S679 [Smith, Bob/McKeon, John F.+1], Climate Corporate Data Accountability Act-concerns greenhouse gas emissions data

S684 [Smith, Bob/McKeon, John F.], Geothermal energy pilot program-establish for gas public utilities

S685 [Smith, Bob], Fleet Conversion Task Force-establish in DEP

S687 [Smith, Bob/McKeon, John F.], Jt. Blue Ribbon Task Force on Impacts of Climate Change on Prop. Insur-create

S743 [Burzichelli, John J.], Habitat restoration, land acquisition, & oversight projects-appropriate \$58.145M

S2161 [Moriarty, Paul D.], Payments in lieu of taxes, cert-concerns cert lands owned by St/nonprofit org

S3251 [McKeon, John F.], Infrastructure Bank-make various changes to enabling act Pending Introduction and Referral:

S3379 [Ruiz, M. Teresa], Semi-annual water & energy usage-req data center owners & operators submit

#### **Senate Higher Education Meeting 11:30 AM**

**Committee Room 1, 1st Floor, State House Annex, Trenton, NJ**

**Chair: Sen. Cryan, Joseph P.**

The Committee will receive testimony from invited guests on ways to improve the State's Tuition Aid Grant Program.

S1461 [Cryan, Joseph P.+1], Academic credit & reverse credit transfer standards-establish

S2243 [Ruiz, M. Teresa/McKnight, Angela V.], Menstrual products-req instt of higher education provide, all campus buildings

S2962 [Mukherji, Raj/Amato, Carmen F.+1], Educational support professionals-prov seniority service credit for military svc

Pending Introduction and Referral:

S3383 [Cryan, Joseph P.], Tuition aid grant amounts-concerns

## **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 (continued)**

### **ASSEMBLY QUORUM Assembly Chambers**

10:00 AM: Committee Group (A) Scheduled to meet

2:00 PM: Committee Group (B) Scheduled to meet

### **\*\*Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Meeting 1:00 PM Committee Room 14, 4th Floor, State House Annex, Trenton, NJ**

**Chair: Asw. Katz, Andrea**

The committee will receive testimony from invited guests on the state of agriculture and farmland preservation in NJ. In the interest of promoting farm viability, the discussion will focus on how the Legislature can support technological and business innovation in the agricultural industry, in order to sustain family farms and promote locally grown fresh food.

### **\*\*Assembly Appropriations Meeting**

**Chair: Asw. Swain, Lisa**

The Committee will not meet.

### **\*\*Assembly Commerce and Economic Development**

**Meeting 2:00 PM Committee Room 15, 4th Floor,**

**State House Annex, Trenton, NJ**

**Chair: Asm. Spearman, William W.**

A798 [Bailey, David/Simmons, Heather+5], Business receive cert notices electronically-req St entities offer optional svc

A2078 [Carter, Linda S./Verrelli, Anthony S.], Out-of-state contractors-estab registry, awarded public works contracts in State

A3955 [Karabinchak, Robert J.+2], Vacant commercial space-requires study for small businesses

### **\*\*Assembly Community Development and Women's Affairs Meeting**

**Chair: Asw. McCoy, Tennille R.**

The Committee will not meet.

### **\*\*Assembly Consumer Affairs Meeting 10:00 AM**

**Committee Room 13, 4th Floor, State House Annex, Trenton, NJ**

**Chair: Asm. Sampson, William B.**

A1651 [Kane, Melinda], Mattress Stewardship Act-req mattress producers join org & implement program

A1959 [Quijano, Annette/Sampson, William B.], Billing due date-proh.

telecommunications/utility companies from charging prior

A3125 [Swain, Lisa/Haider, Shama A.+6], Menstrual products-bans regulated perfluoroalkyl & polyfluoroalkyl substances

A3256 [Hutchison, Dan/Venezia, Michael+3], Mandatory gratuity-req restaurant disclose to patrons, failure unlawful practice

A3318 [Sampson, William B.], Restaurant reservation-ban unauthorized arrangement, third-party reservation svc

### **\*\*Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance**

**Meeting 10:00 AM Committee Room 11, 4th Floor,**

**State House Annex, Trenton, NJ Chair: Asm. Freiman, Roy**

A434 [Venezia, Michael/Reynolds-Jackson, Verlina], Medications, maintenance-prohibits SHBP, SEHBP or Medicaid from denying coverage

A1142 [Danielsen, Joe/Reynolds-Jackson, Verlina+23], Prostate cancer screening-expands requirements for health insurance carriers

A2550 [Bagolie, Rosaura/Speight, Shanique+2], Children w/ disabilities, 26 or older-req cont, health benf dependent coverage

A3242 [Hutchison, Dan/Donlon, Margie+1], Continuous glucose monitoring sys-req health coverage, glycogen storage disease

For Discussion Only:

A3257 [Hutchison, Dan], Health insurance carriers-proh making cert changes, during term of contract

### **\*\*Assembly Health Meeting**

**Chair: Asw. Murphy, Carol A.**

The Committee will not meet.

### **\*\*Assembly Higher Education Meeting**

**Chair: Asw. Morales, Carmen Theresa**

The Committee will not meet.

### **\*\*Assembly Housing Meeting**

**Chair: Asw. Lopez, Yvonne**

The Committee will not meet.

## **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 (continued)**

### **\*\*Assembly Oversight, Reform and Federal Relations**

**Meeting 2:00 PM Committee Room 13, 4th Floor,**

**State House Annex, Trenton, NJ**

**Chair: Asm. Schnall, Alexander**

A474 [Rodriguez, Gabriel/Peterpaul, Luanne M.+3], Support services, General Assistance beneficiaries-estab system, ensure funds

A782 [Bailey, David/Donlon, Margie+2], Residential substance use disorder treatment fac or prog-revise licensure req

A1620 [Kean, Sean T.+1], Conservation restrictions, certain-directs DEP lift as condition of CAFRA permit

A2268 [Donlon, Margie/Tucker, Cleopatra G.+4], Substance & alcohol use disorder-req cert providers, be assessed for conflicts

A2735 [Katz, Andrea/Speight, Shanique], Office of Disordered Eating Prev &

Disordered Eating Prev Research Grant Prog

A2739 [Katz, Andrea+3], Social media platform-proh promoting cert practices/features, eating disorders

A3236 [Hutchison, Dan/Haider, Shama A.+3], Peer recovery specialists-establish oversight and qualifications

A3877 [Coughlin, Craig J./Speight, Shanique+2], Develop housing-estab cert St funding preference, mun that enhance opportunities

### **\*\*Assembly Regulated Professions Meeting 2:00 PM Committee**

**Room 12, 4th Floor, State House Annex, Trenton, NJ**

**Chair: Asm. Hutchison, Dan**

A2001 [Quijano, Annette], Dialysis-related drugs & devices, cert-establish pharmacist licensing exemption

A2288 [Donlon, Margie/Stanley, Sterley S.], Source plasma donation centers-establish licensure requirement

A2401 [Moen, William F.], Scrap metal businesses-establish safety measures

A3381 [Stanley, Sterley S.+2], Occupational therapy-update requirements for licensure Pending Referral:

A1340 [Miller, Cody D./Hutchison, Dan], Consumer debt lawsuits-collect and publish statistical information

### **\*\*Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Meeting 10:00 AM**

**Committee Room 15, 4th Floor, State House Annex, Trenton, NJ**

**Chair: Asm. DeAngelo, Wayne P.**

A796 [Bailey, David/Danielsen, Joe+3], Electric public utilities-develop and apply special tariff for data centers

A804 [Bailey, David/Freiman, Roy], Governor's annual budget message-report societal benf charge rev/expend included

A3969 [Karabinchak, Robert J.], Solar development goals of SREC-II program-increase & extend cert target dates

## **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026**

### **SENATE QUORUM Senate Chambers**

10:00 AM: Group (4) Committees scheduled to meet

### **ASSEMBLY QUORUM Assembly Chambers**

10:00 AM: Committee Group (C) Scheduled to meet

2:00 PM: Committee Group (D) Scheduled to meet

## **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026**

### **SENATE SESSION 1:00 PM Senate Chambers**

Voting Session: Board list to be announced

### **\*ASSEMBLY SESSION Assembly Chambers**

Voting Session: Board list to be announced

## **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026**

### **ASSEMBLY SESSION Assembly Chambers**

Voting Session: Board list to be announced

## **MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026**

### **SENATE QUORUM Senate Chambers**

10:00 AM: Group (1) Committees scheduled to meet

## **THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026**

### **SENATE QUORUM Senate Chambers**

10:00 AM: Group (2) Committees scheduled to meet

**MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026**

**ASSEMBLY QUORUM Assembly Chambers**

10:00 AM: Committee Group (A) Scheduled to meet

2:00 PM: Committee Group (B) Scheduled to meet

**MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026**

**SENATE QUORUM Senate Chambers**

10:00 AM: Group (3) Committees scheduled to meet

**ASSEMBLY QUORUM Assembly Chambers**

10:00 AM: Committee Group (C) Scheduled to meet

2:00 PM: Committee Group (D) Scheduled to meet

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026**

**SENATE QUORUM Senate Chambers**

10:00 AM: Group (4) Committees scheduled to meet

**ASSEMBLY QUORUM Assembly Chambers**

Committees at the Call of the Speaker

**MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026**

**SENATE SESSION 1:00 PM Senate Chambers**

Voting Session: Board list to be announced

**ASSEMBLY QUORUM Assembly Chambers**

Committees at the Call of the Speaker

**THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026**

**ASSEMBLY SESSION Assembly Chambers**

Voting Session: Board list to be announced

# SENATE, No. 1032

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 222nd LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JON M. BRAMNICK**

**District 21 (Middlesex, Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Senator JOSEPH A. LAGANA**

**District 38 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Singer**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes additional health insurance carrier network adequacy standards with respect to certain physician specialists.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning health insurance carrier network adequacy and  
2 amending P.L.1997, c.192.

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.1997, c.192 (C.26:2S-18) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 19. The commissioner shall enforce the provisions of **[this act]**  
10 P.L.1997, c.192 (C.26:2S-1 et seq.).

11 **[**Within six months of the effective date of this act, in  
12 consultation with the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance, the **]**  
13 The commissioner shall adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the  
14 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
15 seq.), necessary to carry out the purposes of **[this act]** P.L.1997,  
16 c.192 (C.26:2S-1 et seq.). The regulations shall establish consumer  
17 protection and quality standards governing carriers which offer a  
18 managed care plan or use a utilization management system that are  
19 consistent with the standards governing health maintenance  
20 organizations in the State.

21 The regulations shall include standards for: a quality  
22 management program; provider participation in a network;  
23 adequacy of the provider network with respect to the scope and type  
24 of health care benefits provided by the carrier, the geographic  
25 service area covered by the provider network and access to medical  
26 specialists, when appropriate; ensuring covered persons have  
27 reasonable and timely in-network access to physician specialists,  
28 including anesthesiologists, radiologists, pathologists, emergency  
29 medicine physicians, and services under their supervision, at in-  
30 network hospitals and facilities; utilization management as required  
31 in **[this act]** P.L.1997, c.192 (C.26:2S-1 et seq.); a covered person  
32 complaint system; a patient appeals system as required in **[this act]**  
33 P.L.1997, c.192 (C.26:2S-1 et seq.); the establishment of consumer  
34 rights of covered persons; carrier disclosure as required in **[this**  
35 **act]** P.L.1997, c.192 (C.26:2S-1 et seq.); and outcomes and data  
36 reporting requirements as required in **[this act]** P.L.1997, c.192  
37 (C.26:2S-1 et seq.).

38 (cf: P.L.1997, c.192, s.19)

39  
40 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

41  
42  
43 STATEMENT

44  
45 This bill establishes additional network adequacy standards for  
46 health insurance carriers that offer a managed care plan. Current

**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 law requires regulations for those carriers to include standards for  
2 the adequacy of the provider network with respect to the scope and  
3 type of health care benefits provided by the carrier, the geographic  
4 service area covered by the provider network, and access to medical  
5 specialists. This bill requires the Commissioner of Banking and  
6 Insurance to adopt regulations to ensure that covered persons have  
7 reasonable and timely access to physician specialists at in-network  
8 hospitals and facilities, including anesthesiologists, radiologists,  
9 pathologists, emergency medicine physicians, and services under  
10 their supervision.

**SENATE, No. 2959**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**222nd LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator RAJ MUKHERJI**

**District 32 (Hudson)**

**Senator JAMES BEACH**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires DHS to reformat MyNJHelps web-based platform as centralized online resource for all State administered public assistance programs.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning public assistance programs and supplementing  
2 Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6  
7 1. a. No later than 365 days after the effective date of this  
8 section, the Commissioner of Human Services, in collaboration with  
9 all applicable State agencies, shall expand the MyNJHelps web-  
10 based application platform for SNAP, WFNJ, and NJFamilyCare to  
11 include all State administered public assistance programs.  
12 Compliance with this subsection shall require the commissioner to:  
13 (1) reformat the MyNJHelps web-based application platform as the  
14 State's centralized online resource for applicants to access  
15 information about, apply for benefits to, and check the application  
16 status of all State administered public assistance programs; and (2)  
17 design a single application, accessible on the MyNJHelps web-  
18 based application platform, through which an applicant can apply  
19 for all State administered public assistance programs.

20 b. The provisions of this section shall not be construed to alter  
21 the administering agency of a public assistance program. The  
22 platform established in accordance with subsection a. of this section  
23 shall provide all applicable administering agencies with access to  
24 the necessary applicant information to make eligibility  
25 determinations, as well as access to platform functions to post  
26 information regarding application status.

27 c. The commissioner shall enter into any necessary data  
28 sharing agreements with applicable State agencies to comply with  
29 the provisions of this section.

30 d. As used in this section:

31 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

32 "Public assistance program" means a program that provides  
33 benefits to low-income New Jersey residents via a means-tested  
34 eligibility process. These types of programs provide benefits that  
35 include, but that are not limited to: healthcare, pharmaceutical,  
36 food, cash, child care, housing, and utility assistance.

37 "NJFamilyCare" means the program established pursuant to  
38 P.L.2005, c.156 (C.30:4J-8 et al.), which includes the Children's  
39 Health Insurance Program and the Medicaid Program.

40 "SNAP" means the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program  
41 established pursuant to the federal "Food and Nutrition Act of  
42 2008," Pub.L.110-246 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.).

43 "WFNJ" means the Work First New Jersey Program established  
44 pursuant to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-55 et seq.) in accordance with  
45 authorization received under Title IV of the federal "Personal  
46 Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996,"  
47 Pub.L.104-193 (8 U.S.C. s.1601 et seq.).



1       2. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

4

STATEMENT

5

6       This bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services  
7 (commissioner), no later than 365 days after the effective date of  
8 the bill and in collaboration with all applicable State agencies, to  
9 expand the MyNJHelps web-based application platform for the  
10 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Work First New  
11 Jersey Program, and the NJFamilyCare Program to include all State  
12 administered public assistance programs. In doing so, the  
13 commissioner is required to: reformat the MyNJHelps web-based  
14 application platform as the State's centralized online resource for  
15 applicants to access information about, apply for benefits to, and  
16 check the application status of all State administered public  
17 assistance programs; and design a single application, accessible on  
18 the MyNJHelps web-based application platform, through which an  
19 applicant can apply for all State administered public assistance  
20 programs. The bill defines "public assistance program" to mean a  
21 program that provides benefits to low-income New Jersey residents  
22 via a means-tested eligibility process. These types of programs  
23 provide benefits that include, but that are not limited to: healthcare,  
24 pharmaceutical, food, cash, child care, housing, and utility  
25 assistance.

26       The provisions of the bill are not to be construed to alter the  
27 administering agency of a public assistance program. Rather, the  
28 platform established under the bill is required to provide all  
29 applicable administering agencies with access to the necessary  
30 applicant information to make eligibility determinations, as well as  
31 access to platform functions to post information regarding  
32 application status. Moreover, the bill directs the commissioner to  
33 enter into any necessary data sharing agreements with applicable  
34 State agencies to comply with the provisions of the bill.

**SENATE, No. 1772**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**222nd LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2026 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator TROY SINGLETON**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Senator JAMES BEACH**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator McKnight**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires DOH to develop Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1    **AN ACT** concerning emergency medical services and supplementing  
2       Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7       1.   a.   The Office of Emergency Medical Services in the  
8       Department of Health shall develop a Statewide Emergency  
9       Medical Services Plan that shall provide for a comprehensive,  
10      coordinated, emergency medical services system in New Jersey.  
11      The plan shall include both short-term and long-term goals and  
12      objectives, and may incorporate the use of regional emergency  
13      medical services plans tailored to the specific needs of regions  
14      within the State as may be designated by the office. Regional plans,  
15      if used, shall be jointly developed by each county board of health in  
16      that region, in consultation with local boards of health as needed. A  
17      regional plan shall be subject to approval by the office; upon  
18      approval, the regional plan shall be deemed to be part of the  
19      Statewide plan. The office shall review and update the Statewide  
20      plan triennially, and shall make such changes to the plan as may be  
21      necessary to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the State's  
22      emergency medical services system of care. The department shall  
23      make the Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan available on  
24      its Internet website.

25      b.   In developing and updating the Statewide Emergency  
26      Medical Services Plan pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the  
27      office shall, at a minimum:

28       (1) conduct an inventory of emergency medical services  
29      resources available within the State;

30       (2) conduct an assessment of the current effectiveness of the  
31      emergency medical services system of care in the State;

32       (3) determine the need for changes to the current emergency  
33      medical services system of care in the State, including any changes  
34      as may be needed to improve access to emergency medical services  
35      in a given region of the State or for a given population within the  
36      State;

37       (4) develop performance metrics with regard to the delivery of  
38      emergency medical services in the State, establish a schedule for  
39      achieving the performance metrics, develop a method for  
40      monitoring and evaluating whether the performance metrics are  
41      being achieved, and prepare an estimate of costs for achieving the  
42      performance metrics;

43       (5) work with professional medical organizations, hospitals, and  
44      other public and private agencies to develop approaches whereby  
45      individuals who presently use the existing emergency department  
46      for routine, nonurgent, primary medical care will be served more  
47      appropriately and economically; and

1 (6) consult with and review, with appropriate emergency  
2 medical services providers and organizations, the development of  
3 applications to governmental or other appropriate sources for grants  
4 or other funding to support emergency medical services programs.

5 c. The Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan developed  
6 pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall:

7 (1) establish a comprehensive Statewide emergency medical  
8 services system, incorporating facilities, transportation, manpower,  
9 communications, and other components as integral parts of a unified  
10 system that will serve to improve the delivery of emergency  
11 medical services and thereby decrease morbidity, hospitalization,  
12 disability, and mortality;

13 (2) seek to reduce the time period between the identification of  
14 an acutely ill or injured patient and the provision of definitive  
15 treatment for the illness or injury;

16 (3) increase access to high quality emergency medical services  
17 for all citizens of New Jersey;

18 (4) promote continuing improvement in system components,  
19 including: ground, water, and air transportation; communications;  
20 hospital emergency departments and other emergency medical care  
21 facilities; health care provider training and health care service  
22 delivery; and consumer health information and education;

23 (5) ensure performance improvement of the emergency medical  
24 services system and of the emergency medical services and care  
25 delivered on scene, in transit, in hospital emergency departments,  
26 and within the hospital environment;

27 (6) conduct, promote, and encourage programs of education and  
28 training designed to upgrade the knowledge and skills of emergency  
29 medical services personnel, including expanding the availability of  
30 paramedic and advanced life support training throughout the State,  
31 with particular emphasis on regions underserved by emergency  
32 medical services personnel having such skills and training;

33 (7) maintain a process for designating appropriate hospitals as  
34 trauma centers, certified stroke centers, and specialty care centers  
35 based on an applicable national evaluation system;

36 (8) maintain a comprehensive emergency medical services  
37 patient care data collection and performance improvement system,  
38 which shall incorporate the information reported to the department  
39 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2017, c.116 (C.26:2K-67);

40 (9) collect data and information and prepare reports for the sole  
41 purpose of designating and verifying trauma centers and other  
42 specialty care centers, as described in paragraph (7) of this  
43 subsection; provided that data and information collected and reports  
44 prepared pursuant to this paragraph shall not be considered a  
45 government record pursuant to P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.),  
46 P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-5 et al.), or the common law concerning  
47 access to government records;

1       (10) establish and maintain a process for crisis intervention and  
2 peer support services for emergency medical services personnel and  
3 public safety personnel, including Statewide availability and  
4 accreditation of critical incident stress management or peer support  
5 teams and personnel. Such accreditation standards shall include a  
6 requirement that a peer support team be headed by a clinical  
7 psychologist, psychiatrist, clinical social worker, or professional  
8 counselor who: (a) is licensed pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised  
9 Statutes; and (b) has at least five years of experience as a mental  
10 health consultant working directly with emergency medical services  
11 personnel or public safety personnel;

12       (11) coordinate with the Emergency Medical Services for  
13 Children Program to maintain, and update as needed, the Statewide  
14 program of emergency medical services for children developed  
15 pursuant to P.L.1992, c.96 (C.26:2K-48 et seq.);

16       (12) establish and support a Statewide system of health and  
17 medical emergency response teams, including emergency medical  
18 services disaster task forces, coordination teams, disaster medical  
19 assistance teams, and other support teams that shall assist local  
20 emergency medical services providers at their request during mass  
21 casualty events, disasters, or whenever local resources are  
22 overwhelmed;

23       (13) establish and maintain a program to improve the  
24 dispatching of emergency medical services personnel and vehicles,  
25 including establishing and supporting emergency medical services  
26 dispatch training, accrediting 911 dispatch centers, and establishing  
27 and maintaining public safety answering points; and

28       (14) identify and establish best practices for managing and  
29 operating emergency medical services providers, improving and  
30 managing emergency medical services response times, and  
31 disseminating such information to the appropriate persons and  
32 entities.

33       d. In developing the Statewide Emergency Medical Services  
34 Plan, the office shall coordinate with the Emergency Medical  
35 Services for Children program and the State trauma medical  
36 director, which shall each revise any plans, programs, protocols, or  
37 other requirements related to emergency medical services as may be  
38 necessary to bring those plans, programs, protocols, or other  
39 requirements into conformity with the Statewide Emergency  
40 Medical Services Plan.

41

42       2. This act shall take effect 180 days after the date of  
43 enactment.

## STATEMENT

This bill requires the Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) in the Department of Health (DOH) to develop a Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan that provides for a comprehensive, coordinated, emergency medical services (EMS) system in New Jersey. The plan is to include both short-term and long-term goals and objectives, and may incorporate the use of regional emergency medical services plans tailored to the specific needs of regions within the State as may be designated by the OEMS. If used, regional plans are to be jointly developed by each county board of health within the designated region, and will be developed in consultation with local boards of health, as needed. Regional plans will be subject to approval by the OEMS; upon receiving such approval, the regional plan will be deemed to be part of the Statewide plan. The OEMS will be required to review and update the Statewide plan triennially, and to make such changes to the plan as may be necessary to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the State's EMS system of care. The DOH will be required to make the Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan available on its Internet website.

In developing and updating the Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan, the OEMS will be required, at a minimum, to:

(1) conduct an inventory of EMS resources available within the State;

(2) conduct an assessment of the current effectiveness of the EMS system of care in the State;

(3) determine the need for changes to the current EMS system of care, including any changes as may be needed to improve access to EMS in a given region of the State or for a given population within the State;

(4) develop performance metrics with regard to the delivery of EMS, establish a schedule for achieving the performance metrics, develop a method for monitoring and evaluating whether the performance metrics are being achieved, and prepare a cost estimate for achieving the performance metrics;

(5) work with professional medical organizations, hospitals, and other public and private agencies to develop approaches whereby individuals who presently use the existing emergency department for routine, nonurgent, primary medical care will be served more appropriately and economically; and

(6) consult with and review, with appropriate EMS agencies and organizations, the development of applications to governmental or other appropriate sources for grants or other funding to support EMS programs.

The bill additionally requires the Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan to:

(1) establish a comprehensive Statewide EMS system, incorporating facilities, transportation, manpower, communications,

1 and other components as integral parts of a unified system that will  
2 serve to improve the delivery of EMS and thereby decrease morbidity,  
3 hospitalization, disability, and mortality;

4 (2) seek to reduce the time period between the identification of an  
5 acutely ill or injured patient and the provision of definitive treatment  
6 for the illness or injury;

7 (3) increase access to high quality EMS for all citizens of New  
8 Jersey;

9 (4) promote continuing improvement in system components,  
10 including: ground, water, and air transportation; communications;  
11 hospital emergency departments and other emergency medical care  
12 facilities; health care provider training and health care service  
13 delivery; and consumer health information and education;

14 (5) ensure performance improvement of the EMS system and of  
15 the emergency services and care delivered on scene, in transit, in  
16 hospital emergency departments, and within the hospital environment;

17 (6) conduct, promote, and encourage programs of education and  
18 training designed to upgrade the knowledge and skills of EMS  
19 personnel, including expanding the availability of paramedic and  
20 advanced life support training throughout the State, with particular  
21 emphasis on regions underserved by EMS personnel having such skills  
22 and training;

23 (7) maintain a process for designating appropriate hospitals as  
24 trauma centers, certified stroke centers, and specialty care centers  
25 based on an applicable national evaluation system;

26 (8) maintain a comprehensive EMS patient care data collection and  
27 performance improvement system, which is to incorporate certain  
28 EMS data currently reported to the DOH;

29 (9) collect data and information and prepare reports for the sole  
30 purpose of designating and verifying trauma centers and other  
31 specialty care centers, which data, information, and reports will not be  
32 considered a government record for the purposes of open public  
33 records access laws;

34 (10) establish and maintain a process for crisis intervention and  
35 peer support services for EMS personnel and public safety personnel,  
36 including Statewide availability and accreditation of critical incident  
37 stress management or peer support teams and personnel. The  
38 accreditation standards are to include a requirement that a peer support  
39 team be headed by a clinical psychologist, psychiatrist, clinical social  
40 worker, or professional counselor who: (a) is licensed pursuant to  
41 Title 45 of the Revised Statutes; and (b) has at least five years of  
42 experience as a mental health consultant working directly with EMS  
43 personnel or public safety personnel;

44 (11) coordinate with the Emergency Medical Services for  
45 Children Program to maintain, and update as needed, the Statewide  
46 program of EMS for children developed under current law;

47 (12) establish and support a Statewide system of health and  
48 medical emergency response teams, including EMS disaster task

1 forces, coordination teams, disaster medical assistance teams, and  
2 other support teams that will assist local EMS providers at their  
3 request during mass casualty events, disasters, or whenever local  
4 resources are overwhelmed;

5 (13) establish and maintain a program to improve dispatching of  
6 EMS personnel and vehicles, including establishing and supporting  
7 EMS dispatch training, accrediting 911 dispatch centers, and  
8 establishing and maintaining public safety answering points; and

9 (14) identify and establish best practices for managing and  
10 operating EMS providers, improving and managing EMS response  
11 times, and disseminating such information to the appropriate persons  
12 and entities.

13 In developing the Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan, the  
14 OEMS will be required to coordinate with the Emergency Medical  
15 Services for Children program and the State trauma medical director,  
16 both of which will be required to revise any plans, programs,  
17 protocols, or other requirements related to EMS as may be necessary  
18 to bring those plans, programs, protocols, or other requirements into  
19 conformity with the Statewide Emergency Medical Services Plan.