

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION..... 2

CRIMINAL JUSTICE 3

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE..... 9

HARM REDUCTION 12

INSURANCE PARITY 17

MENTAL HEALTH 18

PUBLIC EDUCATION..... 23

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE 24

TREATMENT FUNDING 29

TELEMEDICINE 30

INTRODUCTION

This second issue of NCAAR-BH's Legislative Report incorporates those bills introduced during the first month of the 220th Legislative Session. Given the volume of bills introduced in both the Senate and Assembly throughout the month of January, a succinct summary of relevant information is provided, e.g., sponsors(s), bill number, history, and current status.

Because these bills were introduced only recently, very few have been heard in committee. One notable exception is Senate Bill 783, which would, if enacted, establish a dedicated, non-lapsing fund into which the State Treasurer will be required to deposit the State's share of monies received as the result of litigation against opioid manufacturers. In addition, the bill would limit the use of the fund for certain clearly defined purposes, including, but not limited to, providing treatment to people with opioid use disorders. Senate Bill 783 was voted out of committee on February 3, 2022 and was thereafter referred to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee for consideration. The Senate Bill's Assembly counterpart has likewise been voted out of committee.

Two additional bills contained in this report, S541 and S244, propose changes to the Work First New Jersey program and may therefore potentially have a direct impact, if enacted, on the operation of NCARR-BH'S Substance Abuse Initiative and Behavioral Health Initiative. For this reason, a more detailed description of each bill's content is included.

As emphasized in the first report addressing the lame duck session of the 219th Legislative Session, inclusion of specific legislation does not reflect a position or preference taken by NCAAR-BH.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Bill: A366

Sponsors: Dunn (R25); Reynolds-Jackson (D15) +1

Summary: Establishes Digital Divide Solutions Grant Program in DOE to assist public schools in purchase of connected devices and Internet access for students during periods of remote instruction.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 – Assembly Science, Innovation and Technology Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Science, Innovation and Technology Committee.

Bill: A666

Sponsors: Verrelli (D15); Reynolds-Jackson (D15) +1

Summary: Requires certain county inmates be provided with reentry assistance before their release.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 – Assembly Community Development and Affairs Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Community Development and Affairs Committee.

Bill: A982

Sponsors: Reynolds-Jackson (D15); Verrelli (D15); Greenwald (D6) +3

Summary: Requires each county to establish inmate reentry services committee.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 – Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee.

Bill: A1239

Sponsors: Pintor Marin (D29); Reynolds-Jackson (D15); Verrelli (D15) +5

Summary: Requires DCA to establish standards for prisoner reentry transitional housing.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 02/03/2022 – Assembly Housing Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Community Development and Affairs Committee.

02/03/2022—Reported out of committee, referred to Assembly Housing Committee.

Bill: A1721
Sponsors: Speight (D29); Reynolds-Jackson (D15)
Summary: Increases size of Criminal Sentencing and Disposition Commission; broadens reporting duties.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Assembly Judiciary Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Bill: A1847
Sponsors: Park (D37)
Summary: Concerns diversion from criminal prosecution for persons with mental illness under certain circumstances.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Assembly Community Development and Affairs Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Community Development and Affairs Committee.

Bill: A1978
Sponsors: Mukherji (D33); McKnight (D31); Quijano (D20)
Summary: Provides that defendant who participated in diversion program for certain marijuana offenses on prior occasion may again participate under certain circumstances.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Assembly Judiciary Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Bill: AJR31
Sponsors: Chaparro (D33); Murphy (D7); McKnight (D31) +1
Summary: Establishes the Drug Laws Study and Review Commission to study and review Title 2C drug laws.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Assembly Judiciary Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Bill: S112
Sponsors: Holzapfel (R10) +1
Summary: Increases penalties for unlawfully manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing fentanyl.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Law and Public Safety Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Law and Public Safety Committee.

Bill: S116
Sponsors: Holzapfel (R10)
Summary: Requires public utility to reimburse business customer during period when business ceases operations due to utility repairing or replacing its equipment on business customer's property.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Economic Growth Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Economic Growth Committee.

Bill: S166
Sponsors: Connors (R9) +3
Summary: Allows certain drug dealing offenses to be graded by "units," rather than weight, of controlled dangerous substances.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Judiciary Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

Bill: S242
Sponsors: Cunningham (D31); Singleton (D7)
Summary: Bars the denial of expungement application in certain instances.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Judiciary Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

Bill: S244
Sponsors: Cunningham (D31)
Summary: Revises eligibility for convicted drug offenders to receive general assistance benefits under Work First New Jersey program.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
Comments: This bill revises the eligibility requirements for general assistance benefits under the Work First New Jersey program for individuals convicted of an offense involving the use, possession, or distribution of a controlled dangerous substance. Currently, persons convicted of offenses involving the use or possession of a controlled dangerous substance may be eligible for general assistance benefits if they enroll in or complete a licensed drug treatment program, and persons convicted of an offense involving the possession of a controlled dangerous substance are permanently ineligible for benefits. Certain exceptions to the requirement to complete a drug treatment program apply if no program was available or the applicant was excused from meeting the requirement for good cause.

This bill revises these restrictions to provide that anyone who is convicted of an offense involving the use, possession, or distribution of a controlled dangerous substance will be eligible for general assistance benefits under the Work First New Jersey program if the individual completes a drug treatment program or otherwise qualifies for one of the current statutory exceptions.

Bill: S254
Sponsors: Turner (D15)
Summary: Permits counties to establish a central municipal drug court.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Judiciary Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

Bill: S268
Sponsors: Turner (D15)
Summary: Permits persons participating in Drug Court and other programs to earn credit against amount owed on certain court-imposed financial obligations.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Judiciary Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

Bill: **S310**

Sponsors: Vitale (D19); Gill (D34) +1

Summary: Permits expungement of possession or distribution of hypodermic syringe or needle offense in cases of previous expungement; repeals criminal offense of possession of syringe.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Bill: **S342**

Sponsors: Singleton (D7); Gopal (D11) +4

Summary: Authorizes home cultivation of medical cannabis.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Bill: **S353**

Sponsors: Gopal (D11); Singleton (D7) +3

Summary: Legalizes growing or possessing up to six marijuana plants for personal recreational use, and up to 10 plants for personal medical use, by persons aged 21 or older.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Judiciary Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

Bill: **S485**

Sponsors: Scutari (D22)

Summary: Establishes "Gambling Treatment Diversion Court Pilot Program" with the criminal justice system.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Judiciary Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

Bill: S544
Sponsors: Ruiz (D29)
Summary: Requires female inmates be provided with family planning services prior to release from correctional facility.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Law and Public Safety Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Law and Public Safety Committee.

Bill: S726
Sponsors: Madden (D4)
Summary: Requires notification of local law enforcement prior to expungement of certain mental health records of prospective firearms purchasers.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Law and Public Safety Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Law and Public Safety Committee.

Bill: S771
Sponsors: Pou (D35); Turner (D15)
Summary: Requires DCA to establish standards for prisoner reentry transitional housing.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Bill: A226

Sponsors: Munoz (R21); Mosquera (D4) +4

Summary: Establishes "Monica's Law" requiring evidence-based risk assessments in certain domestic violence cases.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 – Assembly Judiciary Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Bill: A228

Sponsors: Munoz (R21); Wimberly (D35) +4

Summary: Establishes Statewide program to provide treatment services for children exposed to domestic violence.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 – Assembly Judiciary Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Bill: A698

Sponsors: Rumpf (R9); Gove (R9); Dancer (R12) +2

Summary: Requires court to consider results of domestic violence assessment before dissolving certain domestic violence restraining orders.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 – Assembly Judiciary Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Bill: A920

Sponsors: Peterson (R23)

Summary: Allows gross income tax deduction for 50% of contributions of \$100 or more to domestic violence shelters.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 – Assembly Women and Children Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Women and Children Committee.

Bill: **A1334**
Sponsors: Mosquera (D4); Greenwald (D6); Benson (D14); Lampitt (D6); Danielsen (D17); Sumter (D35) +9
Summary: Revises certain laws concerning domestic violence and firearms.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee.

Bill: **A1843**
Sponsors: Park (D37)
Summary: Establishes the authority of the court to order electronic monitoring of certain convicted domestic violence offenders.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Assembly Women and Children Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Women and Children Committee.

Bill: **AJR15**
Sponsors: Murphy (D7); Mosquera (D4); Peterson (R23) +7
Summary: Establishes "New Jersey Domestic Violence and Legal Access Task Force."
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Assembly Judiciary Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Bill: **S54**
Sponsors: Corrado (R40); Greenstein (D14)
Summary: Establishes minimum level of domestic violence and sexual assault training for judges and judicial personnel.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Judiciary Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

Bill: S159
Sponsors: Connors (R9); Beach (D6)
Summary: Requires court to consider results of domestic violence assessment before dissolving certain domestic violence restraining orders.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Judiciary Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

Bill: S327
Sponsors: Singleton (D7)
Summary: Establishes four-year pilot program in Ocean County for electronic monitoring of certain domestic violence offenders; designated as "Lisa's Law"; appropriates \$2.5 million.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Judiciary Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

Bill: S496
Sponsors: Cryan (D20)
Summary: Establishes the authority of the court to order electronic monitoring of certain convicted domestic violence offenders.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Bill: S639
Sponsors: O'Scanlon (R13)
Summary: Provides act of domestic violence or child endangerment committed during state of emergency may be classified one degree higher than underlying offense.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 – Senate Judiciary Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

HARM REDUCTION

Bill: A126
Sponsors: Space (R24); Wirths (R24)
Summary: Establishes "New Jersey Fire and EMS Crisis Intervention Services" telephone hotline.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee.

Bill: A197
Sponsors: Rooney (R40)
Summary: Authorizes medical marijuana for treatment of substance use disorder; authorizes all patients to be dispensed medical marijuana in edible form.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Health Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Committee.

Bill: A201
Sponsors: Rooney (R40); DePhillips (R40); Conaway (D7) +3
Summary: Authorizes first responders to obtain, administer, and dispense opioid antidotes, with immunity, pursuant to Statewide standing order issued by State health official; makes clarifying changes to "Overdose Prevention Act."
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Health Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Committee.

Bill: A277
Sponsors: +1
Summary: Authorizes public libraries to maintain supply of opioid antidotes and permits emergency administration of opioid antidote by librarian or other trained library employee.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Health Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Committee.

Bill: A628
Sponsors: Kean, S (R30); Thomson (R30)
Summary: Establishes certain protocols for prescribing and dispensing benzodiazepine.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Health Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Committee.

Bill: A670
Sponsors: Verrelli (D15)
Summary: Requires death certificates to include drug responsible for drug overdose death under certain circumstances.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Health Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Committee.

Bill: A1140
Sponsors: DePhillips (R40) +1
Summary: Requires involuntary commitment of certain individuals who have been administered opioid antidotes.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Human Services Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Human Services Committee.

Bill: A1170
Sponsors: Jasey (D27); Calabrese (D36) +5
Summary: Requires institutions of higher education to maintain supply of opioid antidotes and permits emergency administration of opioid antidote by campus medical professional or trained employee.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Higher Education Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee.

Bill: A1651

Sponsors: Catalano (R10); McGuckin (R10) +3

Summary: Requires health care practitioners prescribing opioid medications on first-time basis, or to minor children, to limit amount of prescribed medication to seven-day supply, except in certain circumstances.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Health Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Committee.

Bill: A1950

Sponsors: Mukherji (D33); Mosquera (D4) +4

Summary: Clarifies that definition of mental illness in law governing involuntary commitment to treatment includes substance use disorder if dangerous standard met.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Human Services Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Human Services Committee.

Bill: AR43

Sponsors: DiMaio (R23)

Summary: Urges relevant State licensing boards to implement continuing education requirements on topics related to opioid pain medication.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Regulated Professions Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Regulated Professions Committee.

Bill: S77

Sponsors: Singer (R30); Greenstein (D14) +2

Summary: Establishes local drug overdose fatality review teams.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Bill: S95
Sponsors: Stanfield (R8) +1
Summary: Authorizes school nurses to administer opioid antidotes to overdose victims on school property, with immunity from civil, criminal, and professional liability, pursuant to "Overdose Prevention Act."
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Bill: S190
Sponsors: Stack (D33); Corrado (R40) +1
Summary: Requires federal funding to be made available to Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse to support Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse if needed to offset unanticipated decrease in dedicated revenues.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Bill: S257
Sponsors: Turner (D15)
Summary: Establishes "Opioid Prevention and Rehabilitation Program Fund" and tax on opioid drugs.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Bill: S298
Sponsors: Vitale (D19); Ruiz (D29) +2
Summary: Requires public and nonpublic secondary schools to annually conduct written or verbal substance use screening on all students using a particular screening program.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Senate Education Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Education Committee.

Bill: S307

Sponsors: Vitale (D19); Gopal (D11); Gill (D34) +2

Summary: Authorizes expanded provision of harm reduction services to distribute sterile syringes and provide certain support services to persons who use drugs intravenously; appropriates \$15 million.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Bill: S310

Sponsors: Vitale (D19); Gill (D34) +1

Summary: Permits expungement of possession or distribution of hypodermic syringe or needle offense in cases of previous expungement; repeals criminal offense of possession of syringe.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Bill: S474

Sponsors: Scutari (D22)

Summary: Requires County health departments to maintain reserve stock of opioid antidotes to dispense to certain entities on interim basis to ensure uninterrupted supply.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

INSURANCE PARITY

Bill: A2008

Sponsors: Conaway (D7); Verrelli (D15); Benson (D14) +2

Summary: Requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage for treatment of mental health conditions and substance use disorders through collaborative care.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Bill: S323

Sponsors: Singleton (D7); Gopal (D11) +1

Summary: Establishes prescription drug pricing disclosure requirements and measures to reduce prescription drug costs.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Bill: S352

Sponsors: Gopal (D11) +1

Summary: Requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage for treatment of mental health conditions and substance use disorders through collaborative care.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Senate Commerce Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.

Bill: SCR28

Sponsors: Lagana (D38); Vitale (D19)

Summary: Amends Constitution to prohibit denial of coverage by certain health insurers based on preexisting conditions.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Senate Commerce Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.

MENTAL HEALTH

Bill: A227

Sponsors: Munoz (R21); Mosquera (D4); Greenwald (D6) +2

Summary: Requires uniform response procedures for all domestic crisis teams established or participated in by law enforcement agencies and strengthens Statewide supervision over teams.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Judiciary Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Bill: A359

Sponsors: Dunn (R25); Murphy (D7); Verrelli (D15) +2

Summary: Establishes Mental Health Awareness Pilot Program in DOE.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Education Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Education Committee.

Bill: A363

Sponsors: Dunn (R25) +2

Summary: Requires DOH to conduct study on causes of youth suicide.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Women and Children Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Women and Children Committee.

Bill: A507

Sponsors: Benson (D14) +1

Summary: Requires Office of Information Technology to establish centralized, one-stop website resource guide to assist persons in navigating the State's mental health and substance use disorder service systems.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Human Services Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Human Services Committee.

Bill: A660
Sponsors: Verrelli (D15); Karabinchak (D18) +4
Summary: Establishes pilot program to create student mental health assistance programs in selected school districts.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Women and Children Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Women and Children Committee.

Bill: A805
Sponsors: Timberlake (D34); Speight (D29); Verrelli (D15)
Summary: Requires Commissioner of Human Services to establish 24-hour, toll-free Mental Illness Resource Hotline and develop hotline connection system to ensure that callers are connected to other appropriate hotlines when needed.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Human Services Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Human Services Committee.

Bill: A1093
Sponsors: Calabrese (D36); Benson (D14); Verrelli (D15) +1
Summary: Allows follow up calls from operators of NJ Suicide Hopeline to minors at risk of committing suicide.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Human Services Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Human Services Committee.

Bill: A1144
Sponsors: DePhillips (R40); Dunn (R25)
Summary: Requires annual suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Health Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Committee.

Bill: A1145
Sponsors: DePhillips (R40)
Summary: Requires reporting of first responder suicides to DOH.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Ö Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee.

Bill: A1176 Aca (1R)
Sponsors: Jasey (D27); Kennedy (D22); Moen (D5) +14
Summary: Requires institutions of higher education to implement suicide prevention programs and raise awareness of mental health services.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 02/03/2022 Ö Assembly Health Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee. 02/03/2022—Reported out of committee with committee amendments, referred to Assembly Health Committee.

Bill: A1336
Sponsors: Mosquera (D4); Schaer (D36); Lampitt (D6) +2
Summary: Establishes Behavioral Mental Health Advisory Board in Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services in DHS.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Ö Assembly Human Services Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Human Services Committee.

Bill: A1682
Sponsors: Quijano (D20) +3
Summary: Establishes one New Jersey Suicide Prevention Advisory Council in DOH.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Ö Assembly Health Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Committee.

Bill: A1882
Sponsors: Giblin (D34) +1
Summary: Exempts proprietary institution licensed to offer academic degrees that has operated in State for at least 25 years from requirement to provide teach-out plan in event of potential closure.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Ö Assembly Higher Education Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee.

Bill: A1959
Sponsors: Mukherji (D33); Conaway (D7) +1
Summary: Requires reporting of certain attempted and completed suicides by minors.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Ö Assembly Women and Children Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Women and Children Committee.

Bill: A2008
Sponsors: Conaway (D7); Verrelli (D15); Benson (D14) +2
Summary: Requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage for treatment of mental health conditions and substance use disorders through collaborative care.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Ö Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Bill: S143
Sponsors: Diegnan (D18); Greenstein (D14) +2
Summary: "Improved Suicide Prevention, Response, and Treatment Act."
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Ö Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Bill: S311 Scs (SCS)
Sponsors: Vitale (D19); Gopal (D11) +2
Summary: Establishes Statewide behavioral health crisis system of care.
Progress: 1st House: 2nd Reading
Status: 02/03/2022 Ö Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
02/03/2022—Reported out of committee with committee substitute, 2nd reading in Senate. Referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Bill: S321
Sponsors: Vitale (D19)
Summary: Establishes expedited process by which certain out-of-State mental health professionals are licensed to provide services in New Jersey.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Ö Senate Commerce Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.

Bill: S489
Sponsors: Cryan (D20); Ruiz (D29) +2
Summary: Requires public school instruction in mental health as it relates to suicide prevention and provides various elements which may be included in instruction.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Ö Senate Education Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Education Committee.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Bill: A359

Sponsors: Dunn (R25); Murphy (D7); Verrelli (D15) +2

Summary: Establishes Mental Health Awareness Pilot Program in DOE.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Education Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Education Committee.

Bill: A507

Sponsors: Benson (D14) +1

Summary: Requires Office of Information Technology to establish centralized, one-stop website resource guide to assist persons in navigating the State's mental health and substance use disorder service systems.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Human Services Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Human Services Committee.

Bill: A520

Sponsors: Freiman (D16); Danielsen (D17) +3

Summary: Establishes public awareness campaign about Pregnant Women/Women With Dependent Children initiative and Maternal Wrap Around program.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Women and Children Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Women and Children Committee.

Bill: A785

Sponsors: Simonsen (R1); Caputo (D28); McClellan (R1) +1

Summary: Requires New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education include content on risks of cannabis.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Assembly Education Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Education Committee.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Bill: A1173

Sponsors: Jasey (D27); Caputo (D28); Reynolds-Jackson (D15) +2

Summary: Establishes two-generational school readiness and workforce development pilot program for certain low-income households.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Ö Assembly Higher Education Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee.

Bill: A1331

Sponsors: Mosquera (D4); Tucker (D28)

Summary: Requires DHS to use funds awarded from performance bonuses to increase staffing for processing certain applications and providing certain services.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Ö Assembly Human Services Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Human Services Committee.

Bill: A1355

Sponsors: Mosquera (D4); McKnight (D31); Jimenez (D32); Murphy (D7) +4

Summary: Requires Commissioner of Corrections to appoint workforce skills training development officer to administer, enhance, and supplement inmate workforce skills training programming.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Ö Assembly Women and Children Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Women and Children Committee.

Bill: A1963
Sponsors: Mukherji (D33); Sumter (D35); Timberlake (D34)
Summary: Revises eligibility for convicted drug offenders to receive general assistance benefits under Work First New Jersey program.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Ö Assembly Health Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Committee.
Comments: This bill revises the eligibility requirements for general assistance benefits under the Work First New Jersey program for individuals convicted of an offense involving the use, possession, or distribution of a controlled dangerous substance.

Currently, persons convicted of offenses involving the use or possession of a controlled dangerous substance may be eligible for general assistance benefits if they enroll in or complete a licensed drug treatment program, and persons convicted of an offense involving the possession of a controlled dangerous substance are permanently ineligible for benefits. Certain exceptions to the requirement to complete a drug treatment program apply if no program was available or the applicant was excused from meeting the requirement for good cause.

This bill revises these restrictions to provide that anyone who is convicted of an offense involving the use, possession, or distribution of a controlled dangerous substance will be eligible for general assistance benefits under the Work First New Jersey program if the individual completes a drug treatment program or otherwise qualifies for one of the current statutory exceptions.

Bill: S244
Sponsors: Cunningham (D31)
Summary: Revises eligibility for convicted drug offenders to receive general assistance benefits under Work First New Jersey program.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
Comments: This bill revises the eligibility requirements for general assistance benefits under the Work First New Jersey program for individuals convicted of an offense involving the use, possession, or distribution of a controlled dangerous substance. Currently, persons convicted of offenses involving the use or possession of a controlled dangerous substance may be eligible for general assistance benefits if they enroll in or complete a licensed drug treatment program, and persons convicted of an offense involving the possession of a controlled dangerous substance are permanently ineligible for benefits. Certain exceptions to the requirement to complete a drug treatment program apply if no program was available or the applicant was excused from meeting the requirement for good cause.

This bill revises these restrictions to provide that anyone who is convicted of an offense involving the use, possession, or distribution of a controlled dangerous substance will be eligible for general assistance benefits under the Work First New Jersey program if the individual completes a drug treatment program or otherwise qualifies for one of the current statutory exceptions.

Bill: S541
Sponsors: Ruiz (D29)
Summary: Revises certain requirements related to cash assistance benefits under Work First New Jersey program.
Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee
Status: 01/11/2022 Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
Comments: This bill revises certain requirements related to cash assistance benefits under the Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) program. The bill provides that, when determining whether good cause exists to excuse noncompliance with program requirements, good cause is to be considered broadly in consideration of the recipient’s health, safety, family needs, financial considerations, and other factors as determined by the commissioner. The bill updates references in the current law that use the term Alien to instead read Immigrant and harmonizes a language discrepancy between the definition of Eligible immigrant in section 3 of P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-57) and the definition of Eligible immigrant in section 1 of P.L.1997, c.14 (C.44:10-44).

The bill revises the requirements concerning provision of child support to an assistance unit to provide that the amount of child support will be based on the number of children in the assistance unit. The bill removes a requirement that the amount of pass-through child support be based on regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Human Services.

The bill revises language setting forth the general purposes and goals of the WFNJ program to provide that the purpose of the program is to provide recipients with the opportunities, training, and work skills needed to help elevate them out of poverty. The bill removes certain language concerning how the program interacts with young parents and how the system can be disruptive to the family structure, as well as language stating that the program is consistent with federal law by including a time limit on benefits, work requirements, enhanced measures to determine paternity, enhanced child support collection, sanctions for noncompliance with program requirements, incentives for teenage parents to complete school, and restrictions on eligibility for aliens.

The bill reduces the hourly requirement for work activity from 40 hours per week to 30 hours per week and provides that the maximum aggregate requirement is 20 hours per week for assistance units with a child under six years of age. Current law provides for a deferral from the work activity requirement for parents and relatives caring for a child under 12 weeks of age; the bill extends this deferral to apply to parents and relatives caring for a child under one year of age.

The bill revises the sanctions that may be imposed for non-compliance with program requirements to provide that an adult beneficiary who is not in compliance will have up to six months to actively cooperate or participate, or demonstrate good cause for non-compliance, before the adult beneficiary's pro-rata share of the benefits amount for the assistance unit will be suspended. Under current law, the adult's pro rata share may be suspended for non-compliance after one month.

The bill removes outdated language in the definition of Dependent Child that required a child in school or vocational training to reasonably be expected to complete the school or training.

The bill requires that, commencing July 1, 2023, the Commissioner of Human Services will be required to conduct an annual assessment of the real cost of living and actual deprivation as reflected in the current standard of need established pursuant to section 9 of P.L.1997, c.13 (C.44:10-42); the commissioner will be required to transmit this assessment to the Legislature for consideration when deciding on appropriations to fund cash assistance benefits. In no case may benefit amounts be reduced.

The bill grants the Commissioner of Human Services emergency rulemaking authority to adopt rules and regulations to implement the provisions of the bill, which emergency rules will be in effect for no more than one year, after which the commissioner will be required to amend, adopt, or readopt the emergency rules in accordance with the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act.

TREATMENT FUNDING

Bill: S257

Sponsors: Turner (D15)

Summary: Establishes "Opioid Prevention and Rehabilitation Program Fund" and tax on opioid drugs.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Bill: S783

Sponsors: Singleton (D7); Beach (D6) +1

Summary: Establishes Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund and Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council; provides for funds received from opioid settlements to support substance use disorder prevention and treatment programs.

Progress: 1st House: 2nd Reading

Status: 02/10/2022 Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee

History: 01/18/2022—Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

02/03/2022—Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Senate.

02/10/2022—Recommitted to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Scheduled: 02/28/2022—Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee, 1:00p, 1st Floor, Committee Room 4, Annex.

TELEMEDICINE

Bill: A1907

Sponsors: Tully (D38)

Summary: Permits telemedicine services to be provided using audio-only technology when providing behavioral health care services.

Progress: 1st House: Referred to Committee

Status: 01/11/2022 Ö Assembly Health Committee

History: 01/11/2022—Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Committee.