

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



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NCAAR

*National Center for Advocacy and Recovery
for behavioral health*

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INTRODUCTION

This fourth issue of NCAAR-BH’s Legislative Report incorporates those bills introduced during March 2022. Given the volume of bills introduced in both the Senate and Assembly throughout the month of February, a succinct summary of relevant information is provided, e.g., sponsor(s), bill number, history and current status. To learn more about each bill, simply click on the hyperlinked bill numbers, which will take you to the full text of the bill.

NCAAR welcomes all suggestions regarding the organization and distribution of its Legislative Reports. All inquiries should be addressed to policy@ncaarbh.org.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Bill: [A3168](#)
Sponsors: McKeon (D27); Quijano (D20); Haider (D37)
Cosponsors: Caputo (D28)
Summary: Upgrades penalties for certain crimes involving heroin and fentanyl; established new crimes concerning heroin mixtures; allows certain defendants to be eligible for drug court.
Status: 3/7/22 -- Introduced and referred to the Assembly Judiciary Committee

Bill: [A3657](#)
Sponsors: Reynolds-Jackson (D15); Wimberly (D35)
Summary: Legalizes growing or possessing up to 6 marijuana plants for personal recreational use, and up to 10 plants for person medical use, by persons aged 21 or older.
Status: 3/17/22 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee
Companion Bill: [S353](#)
Sponsors: Gopal (D11); Singleton (D7)
Cosponsors: Diegnan (D18); Turner (D16); Stanfield (R8); Zwicker (D16)
Status: Introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee on 1/11/22.

Bill: [A3673](#)
Sponsors: Verrelli (D15)
Summary: Designates drug court program as the “special probation recovery court program” in statutes.
Status: 3/21/22 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee
History: Introduced in last session on 1/14/20, bill numbers A3843, S2706

Bill: [AR129](#)
Sponsors: Space (R24)
Summary: Urges New Jersey Supreme Court to refer to supervisory treatment program as "Recovery Court" in publications.
Status: 3/17/22 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee

Bill: [S1998](#)
Sponsors: Beach (D6)
Summary: Establishes central registry for background checks of youth serving organization employees and volunteers. A person may be disqualified from employment or volunteer positions for certain crimes or offenses: involving danger to a person (such as injuries, assault, kidnapping, sexual assault, or robbery); against the family, children or certain persons (e.g., bigamy); involving theft; or, in certain circumstances, involving controlled dangerous substances.
Status: 3/3/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
Companion Bill: [A1832](#)
Sponsors: Lampitt (D6)
Status: 1/11/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Women and Children Committee
History: Introduced in last 3 legislative sessions.

Bill: [S2155](#)
Sponsors: Stanfield (R8)
Summary: Adds illicit fentanyl to Schedule I in the "New Jersey Controlled Dangerous Substances Act."
Status: 3/7/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary Committee
Companion Bill: [A2119](#)
Sponsors: Munoz (R21); Sawyer (R3)
Status: 2/7/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee
History: Introduced in last 2 legislative sessions

Bill: [S2336](#)
Sponsors: Cruz-Perez (D5)
Summary: Prohibits sale of certain products using advertisements alluding to controlled dangerous substances or analogs.
Status: 3/21/2022 - Introduced and referred to Senate Law and Public Safety Committee
Companion Bill: [A3725](#)
Sponsors: Stanley (D18)
Status: 3/24/2022 – Proposed for introduction
History: Introduced in last 7 legislative sessions.

Bill: [S2343](#)
Sponsors: Cruz-Perez (D5)
Summary: Reallocates portion of certain forfeited property as incentive for informants of drug-related offenses and to provide inpatient treatment for certain drug-dependent individuals.
Status: 3/21/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee
History: Introduced in the last 3 legislative sessions.

Bill: [A3710](#)
Sponsors: Mukherji (D33); Freiman (D16); Calabrese (D36)
Summary: Makes permanent temporary enactment allowing certain alcoholic beverage retailers to sell and deliver alcoholic beverages and mixed drinks; establishes certain sale and delivery privileges for alcoholic beverage manufacturers.
Status: 3/24/24 – Proposed for introduction
Companion Bill: [S355](#)
Sponsors: Gopal (D11); Greenstein (D14)
Cosponsors: Turner (D15); O’Scanlon (R13)
Status: 1/11/2022 - Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Law and Public Safety Committee
3/21/2022 - Reported from Senate Committee with Amendments, 2nd Reading

Bill: [A3787](#)
Sponsors: Sumter (D35); Reynolds-Jackson (D15)
Summary: Bars the denial of expungement application in certain instances
Status: 3/24/22 – Proposed for introduction
Companion Bill: [S242](#)
Sponsors: Cunningham (D31); Singleton (D7)
Status: 1/11/2022 - Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee
History:

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Bill: [A3324](#)
Sponsors: McKnight (D31); Timberlake (D34)
Summary: Revises requirements for cash assistance benefits under the Work First New Jersey program.
Progress: 3/7/22 -- Introduced and referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee
Companion Bill: [S1642](#)
Sponsors: Sen. Teresa Ruiz (D)
Summary: This bill revises multiple aspects of the Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) program, related to eligibility, sanction protocol, required work hours, etc.
Status: 2/14/22 -- Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

Bill: [A3638](#)
Sponsors: Wirths (R24); Pace (R24)
Summary: Provides for drug testing of adult recipients of Work First New Jersey Program benefits.
Status: 3/17/22: Introduced and referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee
History: Introduced in past 6 legislative terms. Last session bill number A2969.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bill: [A3337](#)
Sponsors: Piperno (D11); Eulner (D11)
Summary: Makes supplemental appropriation for \$1 million for the Knowledge Empowers Youth and Sobriety Academy, Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District.
Status: 3/7/22 -- Introduced and referred to the Assembly Education Committee
Companion Bill: [S1798](#)
Sponsors: Gopal (D11)
Status: 2/28/22 – Introduced and referred to the Senate Education Committee

Bill: [A3468](#)
Sponsors: Dancer (D12)
Summary: Requires drug testing for security officer registration.
Status: 3/8/22 - Introduced and referred to the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee

Bill: [A3511](#)
Sponsors: Conaway (D7)
Summary: Requires workers' compensation, PIP, and health insurance coverage for the medical use of cannabis in certain circumstances.
Status: 3/8/22 - Introduced and referred to the Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee
Companion bill: [S309](#)
Sponsors: Vitale (D19); Scutari (D22)
Status: 1/11/22 - Introduced and referred to the Senate Commerce Committee

Bill: [A3682](#)
Sponsors: Jaffer (D16)
Summary: Establishes "Recovery Tax Credit Program"; incentivizes hiring and continued employment of certain individuals in recovery from substance use disorder.
Status: 3/21/22 – Introduced and referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee
Companion Bill: [S2228](#)
Sponsors: Gopal (D11); Stanfield (R8)
Status: Introduced and referred to the Senate Economic Growth Committee
History: Introduced in last session (2020-2021), bill number S1968

Bill: [S2301](#)
Sponsors: Gopal (D11)
Summary: Establishes position of Statewide Opioid Antidote Coordinator.
Status: 3/21/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
Companion Bill: [A3749](#)
Sponsors: Eulner (R11); Piperno (R11)
Cosponsors: Catalano (R10); Dunn (R25); Flynn (R13); Scharfenberger (R13)
Status: 3/24/2022 – Proposed for introduction

TREATMENT

Bill: [A3792](#)
Sponsors: Benson (D14); Verrelli (D15)
Summary: Increases Medicaid reimbursement for in-person partial care behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services, and associated transportation services for adults.
Status: 3/24/22 – Proposed for introduction
Companion Bill: [S1895](#)
Sponsors: Singer (R30)
Cosponsors: Diegnan (D18)
Status: 3/3/2022 - Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

TREATMENT ACCESS

Bill: [A3538](#)
Sponsors: Lopez (D19); Verrelli (D15)
Summary: Requires DOC and county correctional facilities to provide certain inmates with medication-assisted treatment.
Status: 3/8/22 - Introduced and referred to the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee
Companion bill: [S1845](#)
Sponsors: Vitale (D19)
Status: 2/28/22 - Introduced and referred to the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee

Bill: [A3598](#)
Sponsors: Greenwald (D6); Reynolds-Jackson (D15); McKnight (D31)
Cosponsors: Danielson (D17); McKeon (D27)
Summary: Establishes pilot program for 24-hour urgent care for behavioral health.
Status: 3/14/22 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Human Services Committee

Bill: [A3599](#)
Sponsors: Verelli (D15); Benson (D14); Park (D37)
Cosponsors: McKnight (D31); Daniels (D17)
Summary: Requires DHS to establish two-year Regional Community Behavioral Health Pilot Program
Status: 3/14/22 - Introduced and referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee
History: Last session bill numbers A5271, S3447

Bill: [A3600](#)
Sponsors: Benson (D14); Greenwald (D6); Chaparro (D33)
Cosponsors: McKeon (D27); Daniels (D17)
Summary: Establishes pilot program to refer certain emergency department patients for development of coordinated behavioral healthcare treatment and support services plan.
Status: 3/14/22 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Human Services Committee

Bill: [S1950](#)
Sponsors: Cruz-Perez (D5)
Summary: Clarifies that definition of mental illness in law governing involuntary commitment to treatment includes substance use disorder if dangerous standard met.
Status: 3/2/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
Companion Bill: [A1950](#)
Sponsors: Mukerji (D33); Mosquera (D4); Jimenez (D32)
Cosponsors: Lampitt (D6); Tucker (D28); Chaparro (D33); Sumter (D35); Swift (R2)
Status: 1/11/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Human Services Committee

Bill: [S1979](#)
Sponsors: Beach (D6)
Summary: Enhances requirements for applicant seeking to locate substance use disorder treatment center within 500 feet of school.
Status: 3/3/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: Introduced in last 2 legislative sessions.

Bill: [S2471](#)
Sponsors: Ruiz (D29)
Summary: Requires inmate to participate in Medicaid and Medicare
Status: 3/24/22 – Proposed for introduction
Companion Bill: [A1243](#)
Sponsors: Pintor Marin (D29); Quijano (D20); Reynolds-Jackson (D15)
Cosponsors: Speight (D29); Timberlake (D34)
Status: 1/11/2022 - Introduced, Referred to Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee

MENTAL HEALTH

Bill: [A3490](#)
Sponsors: Dancer (D12)
Summary: Establishes the “Mental Health Treatment Reform and Violence Prevention Act.”
Status: 3/8/22: Introduced and referred to the Assembly Human Services Committee

Bill: [A3700](#)
Sponsors: Dunn (D25)
Summary: Requires school psychologists and school counselors to complete mental health first aid training.
Status: 3/24/22 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Education Committee
History: Introduced in 2020-2021 session, bill number A4197

Bill: [S1965](#)
Sponsors: Corrado (R40)
Summary: Establishes Behavioral Mental Health Advisory Board in Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services in DHS.
Status: 3/3/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee
History: Introduced in last 4 legislative sessions
Companion Bill: [A1336](#)
Sponsors: Mosquera (D4); Schaer (D36); Lampitt (D6)
Cosponsors: Verrelli (D15); Murphy (D7)
Status: 1/11/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Services Committee
History: Introduced in last 4 legislative sessions

Bill: [S2083](#)
Sponsors: Greenstein (D14)
Summary: Requires State Board of Education to include instruction on mental health first aid training as part of professional development requirement for public school teachers.
Status: 3/3/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Education Committee
Companion Bill: [A2508](#)
Sponsors: Murphy (D7)
Status: 2/14/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Education Committee
History: Introduced in last 2 legislative sessions.

Bill: [A3713](#)
Sponsors: Jaffer (D16); Stanley (D18); Verrelli (D15)
Cosponsors: Sampson (D31); Freiman (D16)
Summary: “College Mental Health Services Act”; establishes grant program for public institutions of higher education and requires public institutions of higher education to report certain information concerning mental health treatment and suicides.
Status: 3/24/22 – Proposed for introduction
Companion Bill: [S2195](#)
Sponsors: Corrado (R40); Cunningham (D31)
Status: 3/7/2022 - Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Higher Education Committee

Bill: [A3750](#)
Sponsors: Eulner (R11); Piperno (R11)
Cosponsors: Webber (R26); DePhillips (R40); Catalano (R10); Umba (R8); Torrissi (R8); Flynn (R13); Scharfenberger (R13)
Summary: “Improved Suicide Prevention, Response, and Treatment Act.”
Status: 3/24/22 – Proposed for introduction
Companion Bill: [S143](#)
Sponsors: Diegnan Jr. (D18); Greenstein (D14)
Cosponsors: Gopal (D11); Pou (D35)
Status: 1/11/2022 - Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

TREATMENT FUNDING

Bill: [A3792](#)
Sponsors: Benson (D14); Verrelli (D15)
Summary: Increases Medicaid reimbursement for in-person partial care behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services, and associated transportation services, for adults.
Status: 3/24/22 – Proposed for introduction
Companion Bill: [S1895](#)
Sponsors: Singer (R30) +1
Cosponsor: Diegnan (D18)
Status: 3/3/22 - Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

HARM REDUCTION

Bill Number: [A3795](#)
Sponsors: Benson (D14), Verrelli (D15)
Summary: Authorizes State and local law enforcement entities to contract for bulk purchasing of heroin antidote
Status: 3/24/22 – Proposed for introduction
Companion Bill: [S1848](#)
Sponsors: Vitale (D19)
Status: 2/28/2022 - Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Law and Public Safety Committee

Bill: [A3749](#)
Sponsors: Eulner (R11); Piperno (R11)
Cosponsors: Catalano (R10); Dunn (R25); Flynn (R13); Scharfenberger (R13)
Summary: Establishes position of Statewide Opioid Antidote Coordinator.
Status: 3/24/22 – Proposed for introduction
Companion Bill: [S2301](#)
Sponsors: Gopal (D11)
Status: 3/21/2022 - Introduced in the Senate, Referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Bill: [A3700](#)
Sponsors: Dunn (R25)
Summary: Requires school psychologist and school counselors to complete mental health first aid training:
Status: 3/24/22 - Introduced and referred to Assembly Education Committee

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Bill: [A3723](#)
Sponsors: Stanley (D18)
Summary: Provides that crime of official misconduct involving disclosure of domestic violence or sexual assault victim's personal information is second degree crime.
Status: 3/24/22 – Proposed for introduction

Bill: [A3724](#)
Sponsors: Stanley (D18); Jaffer (D16)
Summary: Specifies that emergency, transitional, and permanent housing for victim of domestic violence would be funded by "Domestic Violence Victims' Fund."
Status: 3/24/22 – Proposed for introduction
