

LEGISLATIVE REPORT



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June 2022
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NCAAR

*National Center for Advocacy and Recovery
for behavioral health*

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INTRODUCTION

This sixth issue of NCAAR-BH’s Legislative Report incorporates bills of interest introduced in the latter half of May 2022 through June 2022 of the 220th Legislative Session. Given the volume of bills introduced in both the Senate and General Assembly during this time, a succinct summary of relevant information is provided, e.g., sponsor(s), bill number, a brief summary, and the current status. Related, or companion, bills of interest are also listed in this summary despite their inclusion in previous NCAAR-BH Legislative Reports.

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

Inclusion of specific legislation does not reflect a position or preference taken by NCAAR-BH.

HARM REDUCTION

Bill: [A4235](#)
Sponsors: Haider (D37)
Co-sponsors: Conaway (D7)
Summary: Requires county health departments to maintain reserve stock of opioid antidotes to dispense to certain entities on interim basis to ensure uninterrupted supply.
Status: 06/13/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Committee.
Related Bill: [S474](#)
Sponsors: Scutari (D22)
Status: 01/11/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Bill: [A4237](#)
Sponsors: Conaway (D7); Verrelli (D15); Benson (D14)
Summary: Establishes Statewide Opioid Antidote Coordinator position; appropriates funds.
Status: 06/13/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Committee.
Related Bill: [S2808](#)
Sponsors: Gopal (D11)
Status: 06/09/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Bill: [A4244](#)
Sponsors: Dunn (R25); Guardian (R2)
Summary: Requires institutions of higher education to maintain supply of naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray for opioid overdose emergencies and permits emergency administration of naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray by licensed campus medical professionals and resident assistants.
Status: 06/13/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee.
Related Bill: [S899](#)
Sponsors: Turner (D15)
Status: 01/27/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Higher Education Committee.
06/09/2022 – Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Senate.

Bill: [A4337](#)
Sponsors: Conaway (D7)
Summary: Requires Division of Consumer Affairs to provide information to Statewide 2-1-1 telephone system regarding the location of safe disposal sites for hypodermic syringes and needles and prescription drugs.
Status: 06/20/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Community Development and Affairs Committee.

INSURANCE PARITY

Bill: [A4223](#)
Sponsors: Conaway (D7); McKnight (D31); Murphy (D7)
Summary: Increases Medicaid reimbursement rates for primary care and mental health services according to Medicare payment rates for same services.
Status: 06/09/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Human Services Committee.
Related Bill: [S2792](#)
Sponsors: Ruiz (D29); Vitale (D19)
Status: 06/06/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.
06/23/2022 – Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Senate.
06/23/2022 – Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

Bill: [S2790](#)
Sponsors: Corrado (R40); Schepisi (R39)
Summary: Requires health insurance coverage for annual mental health screening.
Status: 06/06/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Commerce Committee.
Related Bill: [A1141](#)
Sponsors: DePhillips (R40)
Co-sponsors: Murphy (D7); Dunn (R25); Chaparro (D33)
Status: 01/11/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

MENTAL HEALTH

Bill: [A4086](#)
Sponsors: Lampitt (D6); Greenwald (D6); Jaffer (D16)
Co-sponsors: Verrelli (D15); Jasey (D27); McKnight (D31); Stanley (D18); Wimberly (D35)
Summary: Permits certain mental health professionals working in school districts to refer or help facilitate referral of students to private professional counselors.
Status: 05/26/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Education Committee.
06/09/2022 – Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.
06/16/2022 – Passed in Assembly 78-0-0.
06/20/2022 – Received in Senate and referred to Senate Education Committee.
Related Bill: [S2003](#)
Sponsors: Beach (D6); Ruiz (D29)
Status: 03/03/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Education Committee.

Bill: [A4227](#)
Sponsors: Sampson (D31); Haider (D37); Atkins (D20)
Co-sponsors: Jaffer (D16); Mukherji (D33); Conaway (D7); McKnight (D31)
Summary: Establishes Military Suicide Prevention Task Force.
Status: 06/13/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee.
Related Bill: [S2895](#)
Sponsors: Corrado (R40)
Status: 06/20/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Bill: [S2776](#)
Sponsors: Ruiz (D29)
Summary: Establishes pilot program to create student mental health assistance programs in selected school districts.
Status: 06/02/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Education Committee.
Related Bill: [A660](#)
Sponsors: Verrelli (D15); Karabinchak (D18); McKnight (D31)
Co-sponsors: Caputo (D28); Speight (D29); Dunn (R25); Jasey (D27)
Status: 01/11/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Women and Children Committee.
05/19/2022 – Reported out of committee with committee amendments, referred to Assembly Education Committee.
06/09/2022 – Reported out of committee, referred to Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Bill: [A4154](#)
Sponsors: Carter (D22); Wimberly (D35); Atkins (D20)
Co-sponsors: Eulner (R11); McKnight (D31)
Summary: Establishes New Jersey Center for Study and Prevention of Suicide at Rutgers School of Public Health.
Status: 06/02/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee.
Related Bill: [S2578](#)
Sponsors: Cryan (D20)
Status: 05/12/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Higher Education Committee.

Bill: [A4275](#)
Sponsors: McKnight (D31); Wimberly (D35)
Summary: Establishes Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Addiction Services.
Status: 06/16/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Committee.

Bill: [A4278](#)
Sponsors: McKnight (D31); Conaway (D7); Wimberly (D35)
Summary: Establishes NJ Task Force on Coordination Among Nonprofit Social Service Organizations.
Status: 06/16/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Human Services Committee.

Bill: [S2934](#)
Sponsors: Scutari (D22)
Summary: "Psilocybin Behavioral Health Access and Services Act"; authorizes production and use of psilocybin to promote health and wellness; decriminalizes, and expunges past offenses involving, psilocybin production, possession, use, and distribution.
Status: 06/23/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bill: [A4071](#)
Sponsors: Murphy (D7)
Summary: Creates "New Jersey Kratom Consumer Protection Act."
Status: 05/26/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Consumer Affairs.

Bill: [S2872 Sca \(1R\)](#)

Sponsors: Scutari (D22); Ruiz (D29); Carter (D22); Reynolds-Jackson (D15); Murphy (D7); Wimberly (D35)

Co-sponsors: O'Scanlon (R13); Codey (D27); Mukherji (D33); Jimenez (D32); Lampitt (D6); Conaway (D7)

Summary: Establishes Behavioral Healthcare Provider Loan Redemption Program within Higher Education Student Assistance Authority; appropriates \$5 million.

Status: 06/16/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.
06/27/2022 – Reported out of committee with committee amendments, 2nd reading in Senate.
06/29/2022 – Passed in Senate 40-0. Received in Assembly w/o committee reference, 2nd reading in Assembly. Substituted for A-4399. Passed in Assembly and sent to Governor 75-1-2.
06/30/2022 – Signed by the Governor P.L.2022, c.34.

Related Bill: [A4399](#)

Sponsors: Carter (D22); Reynolds-Jackson (D15); Murphy (D7); Wimberly (D35)

Co-sponsors: Mukherji (D33); Jimenez (D32); Lampitt (D6); Conaway (D7)

Status: 06/27/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Budget Committee. Reported out of committee, 2nd reading in Assembly.
06/29/2022 – Substituted by S-2872 (1R).

RE-ENTRY

Bill: [A4072](#)

Sponsors: Murphy (D7)

Summary: Permits, under certain circumstances, person adjudged juvenile delinquent to expunge record for act which would have constituted robbery if committed by adult.

Status: 05/26/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Bill: [A4191](#)

Sponsors: Speight (D29)

Summary: Requires DOC to provide reunification therapy to inmates and immediate family members prior to inmate's release.

Status: 06/02/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Judiciary Committee.

TREATMENT ACCESS

Bill: [A4153](#)
Sponsors: Carter (D22); McKnight (D31); Atkins (D20)
Summary: Allows licensed clinical social worker to directly bill NJ FamilyCare for covered services provided to program beneficiaries.
Status: 06/02/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Health Committee.
Related Bill: [S2716](#)
Sponsors: Vitale (D19)
Co-sponsors: Diegnan (D18)
Status: 05/26/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.

Bill: [A4231](#)
Sponsors: Mukherji (D33); Jaffer (D16)
Summary: Lowers age at which minors can consent to behavioral health care treatment from age 16 to age 14.
Status: 06/13/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Women and Children Committee.

Bill: [S2832](#)
Sponsors: Durr (R3)
Summary: Establishes loan redemption program and gross income tax credit for mental health professionals who serve children and adolescents.
Status: 06/13/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Higher Education Committee.
Related Bill: [A3698](#)
Sponsors: Dunn (R25)
Status: 03/24/2022 – Introduced and referred to Assembly Higher Education Committee.

Bill: [A4436](#)
Sponsors: Murphy (D7)
Summary: Establishes "Law Enforcement Addiction Intervention Pilot Program" in Burlington County; appropriates \$75,000.
Status: 06/29/2022 – Proposed for introduction.

TREATMENT FUNDING

Bill: [S2887](#)
Sponsors: Gill (D34)
Summary: Establishes Council for Community Recovery and Family Success; appropriates \$772.6 million.
Status: 06/20/2022 – Introduced and referred to Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.