

ASSEMBLY, No. 4659

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 25, 2024

Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT
District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Requires four-year public institution of higher education to develop and implement reproductive health services plan; requires county college to develop referral network for reproductive health care services.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning student reproductive health at public institutions
2 of higher education and supplementing chapter 61D of Title 18A
3 of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

- 7
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares:
9 a. Student access to high-quality reproductive health care services
10 is vital to ensuring student health.
11 b. For students on campuses that do not have access to
12 reproductive health care, it is imperative that these students are
13 directed to trusted health care providers in the local community.
14 c. Following the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson*
15 *Women's Health Organization*, ensuring access to emergency
16 contraceptives and referrals to community providers is imperative.
17 d. Thirty-nine institutions of higher education across the country
18 have installed vending machines for emergency contraceptives on the
19 campus of the institution.
20 e. Students at institutions of higher education face unique barriers
21 to accessing emergency contraceptives. A study conducted by
22 medical students in Philadelphia found that one-third of the area's
23 pharmacies did not stock emergency contraceptives. Similarly, some
24 student health centers do not stock emergency contraceptives at all.
25 Additionally, traveling off-campus to obtain emergency
26 contraceptives can be difficult for students without cars on campus.
27 f. Students at four-year public institutions of higher education in
28 the State should have access to reproductive health care services.

29
30 2. As used in this act:

31 "Abortion" means any medical treatment intended to induce the
32 termination of pregnancy except for the purpose of producing a live
33 birth. Abortion care includes, but is not limited to, medication
34 abortion and early aspiration abortion.

35 "Aspiration abortion" means a procedure that terminates a
36 pregnancy utilizing manual or electric suction to empty the uterus.

37 "Emergency contraception" means one or more prescription drugs
38 to prevent pregnancy, used separately or in combination,
39 administered to or self-administered by a patient within a medically
40 recommended time after sexual intercourse, dispensed for that
41 purpose in accordance with professional standards of practice and
42 determined to be safe by the United States Food and Drug
43 Administration.

44 "Health care facility" means a health care facility as defined in
45 section 2 of P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-2).

46 "Health care professional" means a person who is licensed,
47 certified, or otherwise authorized to provide health care services
48 pursuant to Title 45 of the Revised Statutes.

1 “Medication abortion” means the use, prescription, order,
2 dispensing, administration, or any combination thereof as applicable,
3 of a medication or a combination of medications to induce
4 termination of pregnancy.

5 “Pregnancy” means the period of the human reproductive process
6 beginning with the implantation of a fertilized egg.

7 “Reproductive health care services” means and includes medical,
8 surgical, counseling, or referral services relating to the human
9 reproductive system, including, but not limited to, services relating
10 to pregnancy, contraception, or the termination of a pregnancy.

11 “Student health center” means a clinic providing primary health
12 care services to students that is located on the campus of a four-year
13 public institution of higher education.

14
15 3. a. A four-year public institution of higher education, in
16 consultation with student representatives selected by the president of
17 the institution, shall develop and implement a reproductive health
18 services plan that addresses student access to reproductive health care
19 services.

20 b. The plan shall, in accordance with all applicable State and
21 federal laws, include:

22 (1) making available on campus services provided by health care
23 professionals, or of referrals to off-campus services provided by
24 health care professionals or health care facilities, for:

25 (a) obtaining federal Food and Drug Administration-approved
26 contraception methods, including emergency contraception and
27 pharmacist authorized, self-administered hormonal contraceptives
28 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2023, c.2 (C.45:14-67.9);

29 (b) preventing, testing for, and treating sexually transmitted
30 infections, including the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV);

31 (c) prenatal care; and

32 (d) abortion;

33 (2) methods to provide students with 24-hour access to purchase
34 over-the-counter contraception through the student health center, as
35 applicable, on-campus retail establishments, or vending machines;

36 (3) providing evidence-based reproductive health education
37 services through the student health center, as applicable, peer
38 educators, or other health education programs; and

39 (4) developing a referral network of verified health care
40 professionals and pharmacies that provide off-campus reproductive
41 health care services in the county in which the four-year institution
42 of higher education is located.

43 c. Each four-year institution of higher education shall annually
44 update the reproductive health services plan.

45
46 4. A county college, in consultation with student representatives
47 selected by the president of the institution, shall develop a referral
48 network of verified health care professionals, health care facilities,

1 and pharmacies that provide off-campus reproductive health care
2 services in the county in which the county college is located.

3
4 5. The Secretary of Higher Education, in consultation with the
5 Commissioner of Health and the Commissioner of Human Services,
6 shall develop guidelines to assist:

7 a. four-year public institutions of higher education in developing
8 and implementing a reproductive health services plan; and

9 b. county colleges in developing the referral network in
10 accordance with section 3 of this act.

11
12 6. Nothing in this act shall be construed to require a public
13 institution of higher education to be a direct provider of reproductive
14 health care services, including abortion.

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16 7. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month
17 next following the date of enactment.

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20 STATEMENT

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22 This bill requires four-year public institutions of higher education
23 to develop and implement a reproductive health services plan.

24 Pursuant to the bill, the plan is required to include: making
25 available on-campus services provided by health care professionals,
26 or referrals to off-campus services provided by health care
27 professionals or health care facilities, for: obtaining contraception,
28 including non-prescription and prescription emergency contraception
29 and pharmacist authorized, self-administered hormonal
30 contraceptives; services for preventing, testing for, and treating
31 sexually transmitted infections, including HIV; prenatal care; and
32 abortion. The plan is also required to include: methods to provide
33 students with 24-hour access to over-the-counter contraception
34 through the student health center, on-campus retail establishments,
35 or vending machines; the provision of evidence-based reproductive
36 health education services provided by the student health center, peer
37 educators, or other health education programs; and the development
38 of a referral network of verified health care professionals, health care
39 facilities, and pharmacies that provide off-campus health care
40 services located within the county that the four-year institution of
41 higher education is located.

42 The bill also requires county colleges to develop a referral network
43 of verified health care professionals, health care facilities, and
44 pharmacies that provide off-campus reproductive health care services
45 in the county in which the county college is located in.

46 Additionally, the bill requires the Secretary of Higher Education,
47 in consultation with the Commissioner of Health and the
48 Commissioner of Human Services, to develop guidelines to assist

1 public institutions of higher education in developing and
2 implementing a reproductive health services plan and county colleges
3 in developing the referral network.

4 Finally, the bill stipulates that the provisions of the bill are not to
5 be construed to require a public institution of higher education to be
6 a direct provider of reproductive health care services, including
7 abortion.