

A4362 (2R)

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement)	Yes	
REPRINT(S):	Yes	AHE 6/3/24 1R AAP 3/20/25 2R
TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL:	No	
COMMITTEE STATEMENT:	ASSEMBLY:	Yes Health Appropriations
	SENATE:	No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:	No	
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	Yes	10/15/2024 03/06/2025

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

LEGISLATOR STATEMENT: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

Matthew Fazelpoor, 'New law establishes NJ Public Health Institute', *NJBIZ* (online), 23 Apr 2025<<https://infoweb.newsbank.com/apps/news/document-view?p=NewsBank&docref=news/1A041F87D5924338>>

CL/MMcB

Title 26.
Chapter 2FF.
(New)
Public Health
Institute
§§ 1-4
C.26:2FF-1
to 26:2FF-4

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 46, *approved April 22, 2025*
Senate, No. 3562 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning public health and supplementing Title 26 of the
2 Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. For over 25 years, New Jersey's public health leaders have
9 pursued interest in establishing a public health institute dedicated to
10 promoting health, well-being, and quality of life for people
11 throughout New Jersey.

12 b. Public health institutes are typically independent, nonprofit
13 organizations that collaborate with public and private sector
14 stakeholders, philanthropists, charitable organizations, and other
15 agencies to foster public health solutions and systematically
16 improve the way health agencies and organizations respond to
17 public health threats and inequities.

18 c. Across the United States, there are currently over 40
19 designated public health institutes working in partnership with State
20 and local departments of health to enhance cross-sector initiatives
21 and bridge gaps between health care and community services.

22 d. These existing public health institutes help states leverage and
23 diversify the personnel, infrastructure and resources needed to
24 accelerate solutions to various forms of public health threats
25 including, but not limited to, communicable disease outbreaks,
26 chronic and sexually transmitted diseases, substance use epidemics,
27 issues related to food access and security, and systemic racial
28 inequities affecting health care.

29 e. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for a public
30 health institute in New Jersey that can work with public and private
31 health care officials and providers to ensure a coordinated, resilient,
32 equitable response to any public health emergency or state of
33 emergency.

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted December 9, 2024.

1 f. In 2022, the Nicholson Foundation and Robert Wood Johnson
2 Foundation collaborated with a wide range of stakeholders from
3 public health, healthcare, social services, and community
4 organizations, and issued a report entitled, “Seizing the Moment:
5 How a Public Health Institute Would Advance Health Equity in
6 New Jersey.”

7 g. The report observed that New Jersey’s public health
8 infrastructure and system has been strained for several decades due
9 to a lack of funding and insufficient coordination across health and
10 related sectors, and further noted that the impact of social and
11 economic determinants of health have caused health inequities
12 along racial, ethnic, income, and other fault lines

13 h. The report recommended the establishment of a public health
14 institute in New Jersey ¹ **that can support** centered around¹ efforts
15 to address the root causes of health disparities and inequities,¹
16 create a more stable, robust, public health infrastructure ¹ that
17 systemically advances health equity and quality of life for all¹ , and
18 provide timely and nimble administrative and operational support to
19 New Jersey’s public health agencies.

20 i. In order to support and sustain a relationship between State
21 government and a public health institute, it is necessary to establish
22 a framework by which the New Jersey Department of Health may
23 engage in a public-private partnership with an organization that can
24 serve as the State’s “Public Health Institute.”

25 j. The Public Health Institute will actively promote collaborative
26 and community-driven partnerships designed to improve public
27 health systems and services throughout the State.

28 k. The primary role of the Public Health Institute will be to
29 collaborate with State departments and agencies, as well as private
30 sector health care, academic, philanthropic, business and faith
31 communities, ¹ and New Jersey’s Regional Health Hubs,¹
32 coordinate and implement strategies in areas of policymaking,
33 research and innovation, data collection, workforce development,
34 and community-based interventions and services, to improve the
35 overall state of public health in New Jersey, with a particular focus
36 on eliminating racial disparities and inequities in public health.

37
38 2. As used in this act:

39 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Health.

40 “Department” means the Department of Health

41 “Public Health Institute” means an entity designated by the
42 Department of Health as the State’s Public Health Institute pursuant
43 to section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
44 as this bill).

45
46 3. a. The Commissioner of Health shall designate ¹ **one or**
47 **more** ¹ a¹ nonprofit ¹ **entities** entity¹ to serve as the Public Health

1 Institute pursuant to criteria established by the commissioner in
2 accordance with this act.

3 b. The purpose and objective of the Public Health Institute
4 shall be to:

5 (1) coordinate among national, State, and local agencies ¹【, as
6 well as】 including, but not limited to, local and county health
7 departments, Regional Health Hubs designated pursuant to P.L.
8 2019, c.517 (C.30:4D-8.16 et seq.), licensed health care facilities,
9 public health-related advocacy and membership organizations, and¹
10 private organizations, for the purposes of promoting equitable
11 public health services in New Jersey;

12 (2) provide timely and nimble administrative, operational and
13 fiscal support to public and private health agencies, community-
14 based organizations, and other strategic partners;

15 (3) develop and implement projects, programs, initiatives, or
16 services designed to improve public health outcomes, address racial
17 disparities in public health ¹including the underlying systemic root
18 causes of health disparities and inequities¹, and bridge gaps
19 between public and private sector health care and community
20 services;

21 (4) promote, support, and fund programs related to workforce
22 development, education, applied research, policy development, and
23 other initiatives that advance the purposes of the Public Health
24 Institute;

25 (5) enter into contracts for the purchase of medical
26 countermeasures, supplies or therapeutics, or other products or
27 service agreements as may be necessary to aid the department in
28 advancing or protecting the public health; and

29 (6) engage in charitable programs dedicated to the purposes and
30 objectives of the Public Health Institute.

31 c. The commissioner shall establish criteria that an entity must
32 satisfy to be designated as a Public Health Institute, which criteria
33 shall include, at a minimum, the following:

34 (1) be a nonprofit organization located in New Jersey which is
35 exempt from federal taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the
36 federal Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3));

37 (2) be recognized by the National Network of Public Health
38 Institutes or ¹【another membership or】 any successor¹ accreditation
39 body for public health institutes;

40 (3) possess the capacity to integrate and coordinate public health
41 functions on a local, county, and Statewide level;

42 (4) maintain a network of personnel with expertise in the areas
43 of health care data collection and analysis, health care policy, health
44 care information systems, and public health research; and

45 (5) any other criteria established by the commissioner.

- 1 d. An entity designated as the Public Health Institute pursuant to
2 subsection a. of this section shall enter into an agreement with the
3 department requiring the entity to:
- 4 (1) comply with all applicable laws and regulations necessary to
5 qualify for and maintain its nonprofit status, including, but not
6 limited to, the “New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation Act,”
7 N.J.S.15A:1-1 et seq., and section 501(c) of the federal Internal
8 Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.501(c));
- 9 (2) regularly consult with and give due consideration to the
10 input and recommendations of the ¹【department】 Department of
11 Health and local health departments¹ in carrying out its duties under
12 this act;
- 13 (3) develop and submit to the department an operational plan
14 that includes a mission statement that supports, complements, and
15 supplements the missions of the department;
- 16 (4) submit to the department an initial startup plan of certain
17 issues, projects and action items the Public Health Institute shall
18 pursue in the first three years of its designation;
- 19 (5) submit periodic planning documents and progress reports to
20 the department at such intervals as may be determined by the
21 commissioner;
- 22 (6) provide information, assistance, and services as may be
23 required by the department in order to design, plan, implement or
24 coordinate any projects, programs, initiatives, or services that
25 advance the mutual purposes of the department and the Public
26 Health Institute;
- 27 (7) report any data collected or maintained by the Public Health
28 Institute to the department, including data related to public health
29 projects, programs, initiatives or services, and any other
30 information that may advance the mutual purposes of the
31 department and the Public Health Institute, provided that such data
32 is submitted to the department in a manner consistent with any
33 applicable State and federal law, rule, regulation, or agreement; and
- 34 (8) comply with any other requirements as may be determined
35 by the commissioner.
- 36 e. The commissioner may, as a condition of a nonprofit entity
37 maintaining its designation as the Public Health Institute, require
38 such nonprofit entity to perform such additional tasks or satisfy
39 additional requirements on a continuing basis.
- 40 f. The commissioner may ¹【, at any time,】¹ rescind ¹【a】 the
41 commissioner’s¹ designation of ¹the¹ Public Health Institute ¹【for
42 any reason】 in accordance with the terms of agreement entered into
43 pursuant to subsection d. of this section¹.
- 44
- 45 4. There is created in the Department of Health a special, non-
46 lapsing fund to be known as the Public Health Institute Fund. There
47 shall be deposited into the fund the amounts made available for the

1 purposes of the fund and monetary donations or grants that may be
2 received from any source for the purposes of the fund and any
3 interest earned thereon. Monies deposited in the fund shall be
4 dedicated for the support and funding of the establishment and
5 maintenance of the Public Health Institute and any projects,
6 programs, initiatives, or services of the Public Health Institute.

7
8 5. The Commissioner of Health may adopt rules and
9 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
10 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to
11 implement the provisions of this act.

12
13 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

14
15

16
17

18 Provides for designation and establishment of Public Health
19 Institute in New Jersey.

CHAPTER 46

AN ACT concerning public health and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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

C.26:2FF-1 Findings, declarations.

1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
 - a. For over 25 years, New Jersey's public health leaders have pursued interest in establishing a public health institute dedicated to promoting health, well-being, and quality of life for people throughout New Jersey.
 - b. Public health institutes are typically independent, nonprofit organizations that collaborate with public and private sector stakeholders, philanthropists, charitable organizations, and other agencies to foster public health solutions and systematically improve the way health agencies and organizations respond to public health threats and inequities.
 - c. Across the United States, there are currently over 40 designated public health institutes working in partnership with State and local departments of health to enhance cross-sector initiatives and bridge gaps between health care and community services.
 - d. These existing public health institutes help states leverage and diversify the personnel, infrastructure, and resources needed to accelerate solutions to various forms of public health threats including, but not limited to, communicable disease outbreaks, chronic and sexually transmitted diseases, substance use epidemics, issues related to food access and security, and systemic racial inequities affecting health care.
 - e. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for a public health institute in New Jersey that can work with public and private health care officials and providers to ensure a coordinated, resilient, equitable response to any public health emergency or state of emergency.
 - f. In 2022, the Nicholson Foundation and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation collaborated with a wide range of stakeholders from public health, healthcare, social services, and community organizations and issued a report entitled, "Seizing the Moment: How a Public Health Institute Would Advance Health Equity in New Jersey."
 - g. The report observed that New Jersey's public health infrastructure and system has been strained for several decades due to a lack of funding and insufficient coordination across health and related sectors and further noted that the impact of social and economic determinants of health have caused health inequities along racial, ethnic, income, and other fault lines
 - h. The report recommended the establishment of a public health institute in New Jersey centered around efforts to address the root causes of health disparities and inequities, create a more stable, robust, public health infrastructure that systemically advances health equity and quality of life for all, and provide timely and nimble administrative and operational support to New Jersey's public health agencies.
 - i. In order to support and sustain a relationship between State government and a public health institute, it is necessary to establish a framework by which the New Jersey Department of Health may engage in a public-private partnership with an organization that can serve as the State's "Public Health Institute."
 - j. The Public Health Institute will actively promote collaborative and community-driven partnerships designed to improve public health systems and services throughout the State.
 - k. The primary role of the Public Health Institute will be to collaborate with State departments and agencies, as well as private sector health care, academic, philanthropic, business and faith communities, and New Jersey's Regional Health Hubs, to coordinate and implement strategies in areas of policymaking, research and innovation, data collection,

workforce development, and community-based interventions and services, and to improve the overall state of public health in New Jersey, with a particular focus on eliminating racial disparities and inequities in public health.

C.26:2FF-2 Definitions.

2. As used in this act:

“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Health.

“Department” means the Department of Health

“Public Health Institute” means an entity designated by the Department of Health as the State’s Public Health Institute pursuant to section 3 of P.L. 2025, c.46 (C.26:2FF-3).

C.26:2FF-3 Public Health Institute, purpose, objectives.

3. a. The Commissioner of Health shall designate a nonprofit entity to serve as the Public Health Institute pursuant to criteria established by the commissioner in accordance with this act.

b. The purpose and objective of the Public Health Institute shall be to:

(1) coordinate among national, State, and local agencies including, but not limited to, local and county health departments, Regional Health Hubs designated pursuant to P.L. 2019, c.517 (C.30:4D-8.16 et seq.), licensed health care facilities, public health-related advocacy and membership organizations, and private organizations for the purposes of promoting equitable public health services in New Jersey;

(2) provide timely and nimble administrative, operational, and fiscal support to public and private health agencies, community-based organizations, and other strategic partners;

(3) develop and implement projects, programs, initiatives, or services designed to improve public health outcomes, address racial disparities in public health, including the underlying systemic root causes of health disparities and inequities, and bridge gaps between public and private sector health care and community services;

(4) promote, support, and fund programs related to workforce development, education, applied research, policy development, and other initiatives that advance the purposes of the Public Health Institute;

(5) enter into contracts for the purchase of medical countermeasures, supplies or therapeutics, or other products or service agreements as may be necessary to aid the department in advancing or protecting the public health; and

(6) engage in charitable programs dedicated to the purposes and objectives of the Public Health Institute.

c. The commissioner shall establish criteria that an entity must satisfy to be designated as a Public Health Institute, which criteria shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) be a nonprofit organization located in New Jersey which is exempt from federal taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the federal Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3));

(2) be recognized by the National Network of Public Health Institutes or any successor accreditation body for public health institutes;

(3) possess the capacity to integrate and coordinate public health functions on a local, county, and Statewide level;

(4) maintain a network of personnel with expertise in the areas of health care data collection and analysis, health care policy, health care information systems, and public health research; and

(5) any other criteria established by the commissioner.

d. An entity designated as the Public Health Institute pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall enter into an agreement with the department requiring the entity to:

(1) comply with all applicable laws and regulations necessary to qualify for and maintain its nonprofit status, including, but not limited to, the “New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation Act,” N.J.S.15A:1-1 et seq., and section 501(c) of the federal Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.501(c));

(2) regularly consult with and give due consideration to the input and recommendations of the Department of Health and local health departments in carrying out its duties under this act;

(3) develop and submit to the department an operational plan that includes a mission statement that supports, complements, and supplements the missions of the department;

(4) submit to the department an initial startup plan of certain issues, projects, and action items the Public Health Institute shall pursue in the first three years of its designation;

(5) submit periodic planning documents and progress reports to the department at such intervals as may be determined by the commissioner;

(6) provide information, assistance, and services as may be required by the department in order to design, plan, implement, or coordinate any projects, programs, initiatives, or services that advance the mutual purposes of the department and the Public Health Institute;

(7) report any data collected or maintained by the Public Health Institute to the department, including data related to public health projects, programs, initiatives, or services, and any other information that may advance the mutual purposes of the department and the Public Health Institute, provided that such data is submitted to the department in a manner consistent with any applicable State and federal law, rule, regulation, or agreement; and

(8) comply with any other requirements as may be determined by the commissioner.

e. The commissioner may, as a condition of a nonprofit entity maintaining its designation as the Public Health Institute, require such nonprofit entity to perform such additional tasks or satisfy additional requirements on a continuing basis.

f. The commissioner may rescind the commissioner’s designation of the Public Health Institute in accordance with the terms of agreement entered into pursuant to subsection d. of this section.

C.26:2FF-4 Public Health Institute Fund.

4. There is created in the Department of Health a special, non-lapsing fund to be known as the Public Health Institute Fund. There shall be deposited into the fund the amounts made available for the purposes of the fund and monetary donations or grants that may be received from any source for the purposes of the fund and any interest earned thereon. Monies deposited in the fund shall be dedicated for the support and funding of the establishment and maintenance of the Public Health Institute and any projects, programs, initiatives, or services of the Public Health Institute.

5. The Commissioner of Health may adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

6. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved April 22, 2025.

SENATE, No. 3562

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator RENEE C. BURGESS

District 28 (Essex and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Provides for designation and establishment of Public Health Institute in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/18/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning public health and supplementing Title 26 of the
2 Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. For over 25 years, New Jersey’s public health leaders have
9 pursued interest in establishing a public health institute dedicated to
10 promoting health, well-being, and quality of life for people
11 throughout New Jersey.

12 b. Public health institutes are typically independent, nonprofit
13 organizations that collaborate with public and private sector
14 stakeholders, philanthropists, charitable organizations, and other
15 agencies to foster public health solutions and systematically
16 improve the way health agencies and organizations respond to
17 public health threats and inequities.

18 c. Across the United States, there are currently over 40
19 designated public health institutes working in partnership with State
20 and local departments of health to enhance cross-sector initiatives
21 and bridge gaps between health care and community services.

22 d. These existing public health institutes help states leverage
23 and diversify the personnel, infrastructure and resources needed to
24 accelerate solutions to various forms of public health threats
25 including, but not limited to, communicable disease outbreaks,
26 chronic and sexually transmitted diseases, substance use epidemics,
27 issues related to food access and security, and systemic racial
28 inequities affecting health care.

29 e. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for a
30 public health institute in New Jersey that can work with public and
31 private health care officials and providers to ensure a coordinated,
32 resilient, equitable response to any public health emergency or state
33 of emergency.

34 f. In 2022, the Nicholson Foundation and Robert Wood
35 Johnson Foundation collaborated with a wide range of stakeholders
36 from public health, healthcare, social services, and community
37 organizations, and issued a report entitled, “Seizing the Moment:
38 How a Public Health Institute Would Advance Health Equity in
39 New Jersey.”

40 g. The report observed that New Jersey’s public health
41 infrastructure and system has been strained for several decades due
42 to a lack of funding and insufficient coordination across health and
43 related sectors, and further noted that the impact of social and
44 economic determinants of health have caused health inequities
45 along racial, ethnic, income, and other fault lines

46 h. The report recommended the establishment of a public
47 health institute in New Jersey that can support efforts to create a
48 more stable, robust, public health infrastructure, and provide timely

1 and nimble administrative and operational support to New Jersey’s
2 public health agencies.

3 i. In order to support and sustain a relationship between State
4 government and a public health institute, it is necessary to establish
5 a framework by which the New Jersey Department of Health may
6 engage in a public-private partnership with an organization that can
7 serve as the State’s “Public Health Institute.”

8 j. The Public Health Institute will actively promote
9 collaborative and community-driven partnerships designed to
10 improve public health systems and services throughout the State.

11 k. The primary role of the Public Health Institute will be to
12 collaborate with State departments and agencies, as well as private
13 sector health care, academic, philanthropic, business and faith
14 communities, to coordinate and implement strategies in areas of
15 policymaking, research and innovation, data collection, workforce
16 development, and community-based interventions and services, to
17 improve the overall state of public health in New Jersey, with a
18 particular focus on eliminating racial disparities and inequities in
19 public health.

20

21 2. As used in this act:

22 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Health.

23 “Department” means the Department of Health

24 “Public Health Institute” means an entity designated by the
25 Department of Health as the State’s Public Health Institute pursuant
26 to section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
27 as this bill).

28

29 3. a. The Commissioner of Health shall designate one or
30 more nonprofit entities to serve as the Public Health Institute
31 pursuant to criteria established by the commissioner in accordance
32 with this act.

33 b. The purpose and objective of the Public Health Institute
34 shall be to:

35 (1) coordinate among national, State, and local agencies, as well
36 as private organizations, for the purposes of promoting equitable
37 public health services in New Jersey;

38 (2) provide timely and nimble administrative, operational and
39 fiscal support to public and private health agencies, community-
40 based organizations, and other strategic partners;

41 (3) develop and implement projects, programs, initiatives, or
42 services designed to improve public health outcomes, address racial
43 disparities in public health, and bridge gaps between public and
44 private sector health care and community services;

45 (4) promote, support, and fund programs related to workforce
46 development, education, applied research, policy development, and
47 other initiatives that advance the purposes of the Public Health
48 Institute;

S3562 VITALE, BURGESS

4

1 (5) enter into contracts for the purchase of medical
2 countermeasures, supplies or therapeutics, or other products or
3 service agreements as may be necessary to aid the department in
4 advancing or protecting the public health; and

5 (6) engage in charitable programs dedicated to the purposes and
6 objectives of the Public Health Institute.

7 c. The commissioner shall establish criteria that an entity must
8 satisfy to be designated as a Public Health Institute, which criteria
9 shall include, at a minimum, the following:

10 (1) be a nonprofit organization located in New Jersey which is
11 exempt from federal taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the
12 federal Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3));

13 (2) be recognized by the National Network of Public Health
14 Institutes or another membership or accreditation body for public
15 health institutes;

16 (3) possess the capacity to integrate and coordinate public health
17 functions on a local, county, and Statewide level;

18 (4) maintain a network of personnel with expertise in the areas
19 of health care data collection and analysis, health care policy, health
20 care information systems, and public health research; and

21 (5) any other criteria established by the commissioner.

22 d. An entity designated as the Public Health Institute pursuant
23 to subsection a. of this section shall enter into an agreement with
24 the department requiring the entity to:

25 (1) comply with all applicable laws and regulations necessary to
26 qualify for and maintain its nonprofit status, including, but not
27 limited to, the "New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation Act,"
28 N.J.S.15A:1-1 et seq., and section 501(c) of the federal Internal
29 Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.501(c));

30 (2) regularly consult with and give due consideration to the
31 input and recommendations of the department in carrying out its
32 duties under this act;

33 (3) develop and submit to the department an operational plan
34 that includes a mission statement that supports, complements, and
35 supplements the missions of the department;

36 (4) submit to the department an initial startup plan of certain
37 issues, projects and action items the Public Health Institute shall
38 pursue in the first three years of its designation;

39 (5) submit periodic planning documents and progress reports to
40 the department at such intervals as may be determined by the
41 commissioner;

42 (6) provide information, assistance, and services as may be
43 required by the department in order to design, plan, implement or
44 coordinate any projects, programs, initiatives, or services that
45 advance the mutual purposes of the department and the Public
46 Health Institute;

47 (7) report any data collected or maintained by the Public Health
48 Institute to the department, including data related to public health

1 projects, programs, initiatives or services, and any other
2 information that may advance the mutual purposes of the
3 department and the Public Health Institute, provided that such data
4 is submitted to the department in a manner consistent with any
5 applicable State and federal law, rule, regulation, or agreement; and

6 (8) comply with any other requirements as may be determined
7 by the commissioner.

8 e. The commissioner may, as a condition of a nonprofit entity
9 maintaining its designation as the Public Health Institute, require
10 such nonprofit entity to perform such additional tasks or satisfy
11 additional requirements on a continuing basis.

12 f. The commissioner may, at any time, rescind a designation of
13 Public Health Institute for any reason.

14

15 4. There is created in the Department of Health a special, non-
16 lapsing fund to be known as the Public Health Institute Fund. There
17 shall be deposited into the fund the amounts made available for the
18 purposes of the fund and monetary donations or grants that may be
19 received from any source for the purposes of the fund and any
20 interest earned thereon. Monies deposited in the fund shall be
21 dedicated for the support and funding of the establishment and
22 maintenance of the Public Health Institute and any projects,
23 programs, initiatives, or services of the Public Health Institute.

24

25 5. The Commissioner of Health may adopt rules and
26 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
27 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to
28 implement the provisions of this act.

29

30 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

31

32

33

STATEMENT

34

35 This bill provides for the designation and establishment of a
36 Public Health Institute in New Jersey.

37 The bill requires the Commissioner of Health (commissioner) to
38 designate one or more nonprofit entities to serve as the Public
39 Health Institute pursuant to criteria established by the
40 commissioner. The purpose and objective of the Public Health
41 Institute will be to:

42 (1) coordinate among national, State, and local agencies, as well
43 as private organizations, for the purposes of promoting equitable
44 public health services in New Jersey;

45 (2) provide timely and nimble administrative, operational and
46 fiscal support to public and private health agencies, community-
47 based organizations, and other strategic partners;

1 (3) develop and implement projects, programs, initiatives, or
2 services designed to improve public health outcomes, address racial
3 disparities in public health, and bridge gaps between public and
4 private sector health care and community services;

5 (4) promote, support, and fund programs related to workforce
6 development, education, applied research, policy development, and
7 other initiatives that advance the purposes of the Public Health
8 Institute;

9 (5) enter into contracts for the purchase of medical
10 countermeasures, supplies or therapeutics, or other products or
11 service agreements as may be necessary to aid the department in
12 advancing or protecting the public health; and

13 (6) engage in charitable programs dedicated to the purposes and
14 objectives of the Public Health Institute.

15 Under the bill, the commissioner will establish criteria that an
16 entity must satisfy to be designated as a Public Health Institute,
17 which criteria shall include, at a minimum, the following:

18 (1) be a nonprofit organization located in New Jersey;

19 (2) be recognized by the National Network of Public Health
20 Institutes or another membership or accreditation body for public
21 health institutes;

22 (3) possess the capacity to integrate and coordinate public health
23 functions on a local, county, and Statewide level;

24 (4) maintain a network of personnel with expertise in the areas
25 of health care data collection and analysis, health care policy, health
26 care information systems, and public health research; and

27 (5) any other criteria established by the commissioner.

28 An entity designated as the Public Health Institute pursuant to
29 the bill will enter into an agreement with the department requiring
30 the entity to:

31 (1) comply with all applicable laws and regulations necessary to
32 qualify for and maintain its nonprofit status;

33 (2) regularly consult with and give due consideration to the
34 input and recommendations of the department in carrying out its
35 duties;

36 (3) develop and submit to the department an operational plan;

37 (4) submit to the department an initial startup plan of certain
38 issues, projects and action items the Public Health Institute will
39 pursue in the first three years of its designation;

40 (5) submit periodic planning documents and progress reports to
41 the department at such intervals as may be determined by the
42 commissioner;

43 (6) provide information, assistance, and services as may be
44 required by the department in order to design, plan, implement or
45 coordinate any projects, programs, initiatives, or services that
46 advance the mutual purposes of the department and the Public
47 Health Institute;

S3562 VITALE, BURGESS

7

1 (7) report any data collected or maintained by the Public Health
2 Institute to the department; and

3 (8) comply with any other requirements as may be determined
4 by the commissioner.

5 The commissioner may, as a condition of a nonprofit entity
6 maintaining its designation as the Public Health Institute, require
7 such nonprofit entity to perform such additional tasks or satisfy
8 additional requirements on a continuing basis. The commissioner
9 may, at any time, rescind a designation of Public Health Institute
10 for any reason.

11 The bill establishes in the Department of Health a special, non-
12 lapsing fund to be known as the Public Health Institute Fund.
13 Monies deposited in the fund will be dedicated for the support and
14 funding of the establishment and maintenance of the Public Health
15 Institute and any projects, programs, initiatives, or services of the
16 Public Health Institute.

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3562

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator RENEE C. BURGESS

District 28 (Essex and Union)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Co-Sponsored by:

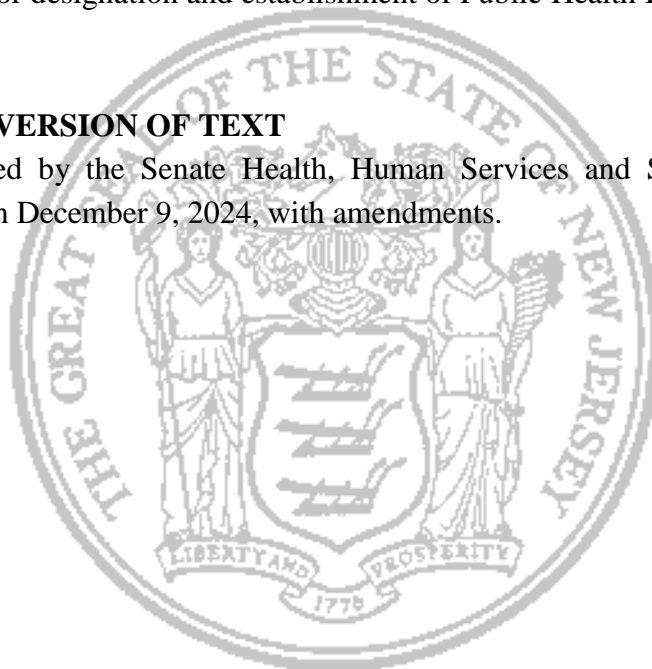
Senator McKnight

SYNOPSIS

Provides for designation and establishment of Public Health Institute in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee on December 9, 2024, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/24/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning public health and supplementing Title 26 of the
2 Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. For over 25 years, New Jersey’s public health leaders have
9 pursued interest in establishing a public health institute dedicated to
10 promoting health, well-being, and quality of life for people
11 throughout New Jersey.

12 b. Public health institutes are typically independent, nonprofit
13 organizations that collaborate with public and private sector
14 stakeholders, philanthropists, charitable organizations, and other
15 agencies to foster public health solutions and systematically
16 improve the way health agencies and organizations respond to
17 public health threats and inequities.

18 c. Across the United States, there are currently over 40
19 designated public health institutes working in partnership with State
20 and local departments of health to enhance cross-sector initiatives
21 and bridge gaps between health care and community services.

22 d. These existing public health institutes help states leverage and
23 diversify the personnel, infrastructure and resources needed to
24 accelerate solutions to various forms of public health threats
25 including, but not limited to, communicable disease outbreaks,
26 chronic and sexually transmitted diseases, substance use epidemics,
27 issues related to food access and security, and systemic racial
28 inequities affecting health care.

29 e. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for a public
30 health institute in New Jersey that can work with public and private
31 health care officials and providers to ensure a coordinated, resilient,
32 equitable response to any public health emergency or state of
33 emergency.

34 f. In 2022, the Nicholson Foundation and Robert Wood Johnson
35 Foundation collaborated with a wide range of stakeholders from
36 public health, healthcare, social services, and community
37 organizations, and issued a report entitled, “Seizing the Moment:
38 How a Public Health Institute Would Advance Health Equity in
39 New Jersey.”

40 g. The report observed that New Jersey’s public health
41 infrastructure and system has been strained for several decades due
42 to a lack of funding and insufficient coordination across health and
43 related sectors, and further noted that the impact of social and
44 economic determinants of health have caused health inequities
45 along racial, ethnic, income, and other fault lines

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted December 9, 2024.

1 h. The report recommended the establishment of a public health
2 institute in New Jersey **1** **that can support** centered around **1** efforts
3 to address the root causes of health disparities and inequities. **1**
4 create a more stable, robust, public health infrastructure that
5 systemically advances health equity and quality of life for all **1** , and
6 provide timely and nimble administrative and operational support to
7 New Jersey's public health agencies.

8 i. In order to support and sustain a relationship between State
9 government and a public health institute, it is necessary to establish
10 a framework by which the New Jersey Department of Health may
11 engage in a public-private partnership with an organization that can
12 serve as the State's "Public Health Institute."

13 j. The Public Health Institute will actively promote collaborative
14 and community-driven partnerships designed to improve public
15 health systems and services throughout the State.

16 k. The primary role of the Public Health Institute will be to
17 collaborate with State departments and agencies, as well as private
18 sector health care, academic, philanthropic, business and faith
19 communities, and New Jersey's Regional Health Hubs, **1**
20 coordinate and implement strategies in areas of policymaking,
21 research and innovation, data collection, workforce development,
22 and community-based interventions and services, to improve the
23 overall state of public health in New Jersey, with a particular focus
24 on eliminating racial disparities and inequities in public health.

25
26 2. As used in this act:

27 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Health.

28 "Department" means the Department of Health

29 "Public Health Institute" means an entity designated by the
30 Department of Health as the State's Public Health Institute pursuant
31 to section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
32 as this bill).

33
34 3. a. The Commissioner of Health shall designate **1** **one or**
35 **more** **a** **1** nonprofit **1** **entities** entity **1** to serve as the Public Health
36 Institute pursuant to criteria established by the commissioner in
37 accordance with this act.

38 b. The purpose and objective of the Public Health Institute
39 shall be to:

40 (1) coordinate among national, State, and local agencies **1** **,** as
41 well as **1** including, but not limited to, local and county health
42 departments, Regional Health Hubs designated pursuant to P.L.
43 2019, c.517 (C.30:4D-8.16 et seq.), licensed health care facilities,
44 public health-related advocacy and membership organizations, and **1**
45 private organizations, for the purposes of promoting equitable
46 public health services in New Jersey;

- 1 (2) provide timely and nimble administrative, operational and
2 fiscal support to public and private health agencies, community-
3 based organizations, and other strategic partners;
- 4 (3) develop and implement projects, programs, initiatives, or
5 services designed to improve public health outcomes, address racial
6 disparities in public health ¹including the underlying systemic root
7 causes of health disparities and inequities¹, and bridge gaps
8 between public and private sector health care and community
9 services;
- 10 (4) promote, support, and fund programs related to workforce
11 development, education, applied research, policy development, and
12 other initiatives that advance the purposes of the Public Health
13 Institute;
- 14 (5) enter into contracts for the purchase of medical
15 countermeasures, supplies or therapeutics, or other products or
16 service agreements as may be necessary to aid the department in
17 advancing or protecting the public health; and
- 18 (6) engage in charitable programs dedicated to the purposes and
19 objectives of the Public Health Institute.
- 20 c. The commissioner shall establish criteria that an entity must
21 satisfy to be designated as a Public Health Institute, which criteria
22 shall include, at a minimum, the following:
- 23 (1) be a nonprofit organization located in New Jersey which is
24 exempt from federal taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the
25 federal Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3));
- 26 (2) be recognized by the National Network of Public Health
27 Institutes or ¹**【another membership or】** any successor¹ accreditation
28 body for public health institutes;
- 29 (3) possess the capacity to integrate and coordinate public health
30 functions on a local, county, and Statewide level;
- 31 (4) maintain a network of personnel with expertise in the areas
32 of health care data collection and analysis, health care policy, health
33 care information systems, and public health research; and
- 34 (5) any other criteria established by the commissioner.
- 35 d. An entity designated as the Public Health Institute pursuant to
36 subsection a. of this section shall enter into an agreement with the
37 department requiring the entity to:
- 38 (1) comply with all applicable laws and regulations necessary to
39 qualify for and maintain its nonprofit status, including, but not
40 limited to, the “New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation Act,”
41 N.J.S.15A:1-1 et seq., and section 501(c) of the federal Internal
42 Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.501(c));
- 43 (2) regularly consult with and give due consideration to the
44 input and recommendations of the ¹**【department】** Department of
45 Health and local health departments¹ in carrying out its duties under
46 this act;

- 1 (3) develop and submit to the department an operational plan
2 that includes a mission statement that supports, complements, and
3 supplements the missions of the department;
- 4 (4) submit to the department an initial startup plan of certain
5 issues, projects and action items the Public Health Institute shall
6 pursue in the first three years of its designation;
- 7 (5) submit periodic planning documents and progress reports to
8 the department at such intervals as may be determined by the
9 commissioner;
- 10 (6) provide information, assistance, and services as may be
11 required by the department in order to design, plan, implement or
12 coordinate any projects, programs, initiatives, or services that
13 advance the mutual purposes of the department and the Public
14 Health Institute;
- 15 (7) report any data collected or maintained by the Public Health
16 Institute to the department, including data related to public health
17 projects, programs, initiatives or services, and any other
18 information that may advance the mutual purposes of the
19 department and the Public Health Institute, provided that such data
20 is submitted to the department in a manner consistent with any
21 applicable State and federal law, rule, regulation, or agreement; and
- 22 (8) comply with any other requirements as may be determined
23 by the commissioner.
- 24 e. The commissioner may, as a condition of a nonprofit entity
25 maintaining its designation as the Public Health Institute, require
26 such nonprofit entity to perform such additional tasks or satisfy
27 additional requirements on a continuing basis.
- 28 f. The commissioner may ¹["at any time,"]¹ rescind ¹["a"]¹ the
29 commissioner's¹ designation of ¹the¹ Public Health Institute ¹["for
30 any reason"] in accordance with the terms of agreement entered into
31 pursuant to subsection d. of this section¹.
- 32
- 33 4. There is created in the Department of Health a special, non-
34 lapsing fund to be known as the Public Health Institute Fund. There
35 shall be deposited into the fund the amounts made available for the
36 purposes of the fund and monetary donations or grants that may be
37 received from any source for the purposes of the fund and any
38 interest earned thereon. Monies deposited in the fund shall be
39 dedicated for the support and funding of the establishment and
40 maintenance of the Public Health Institute and any projects,
41 programs, initiatives, or services of the Public Health Institute.
- 42
- 43 5. The Commissioner of Health may adopt rules and
44 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
45 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to
46 implement the provisions of this act.
- 47
- 48 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3562

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 9, 2024

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3562.

As amended by the committee, this bill provides for the designation and establishment of a Public Health Institute in New Jersey.

The bill requires the Commissioner of Health (commissioner) to designate one entity to serve as the Public Health Institute pursuant to criteria established by the commissioner. The purpose and objective of the Public Health Institute will be to:

(1) coordinate among national, State, and local agencies, including, but not limited to, local and county health departments, Regional Health Hubs, licensed health care facilities, public health-related advocacy and membership organizations, and private organizations, for the purposes of promoting equitable public health services in New Jersey;

(2) provide timely and nimble administrative, operational and fiscal support to public and private health agencies, community-based organizations, and other strategic partners;

(3) develop and implement projects, programs, initiatives, or services designed to improve public health outcomes, address racial disparities in public health including the underlying systemic root causes of health disparities and inequities, and bridge gaps between public and private sector health care and community services;

(4) promote, support, and fund programs related to workforce development, education, applied research, policy development, and other initiatives that advance the purposes of the Public Health Institute;

(5) enter into contracts for the purchase of medical countermeasures, supplies or therapeutics, or other products or service agreements as may be necessary to aid the Department of Health (department) in advancing or protecting the public health; and

(6) engage in charitable programs dedicated to the purposes and objectives of the Public Health Institute.

Under the bill, the commissioner will establish criteria that an entity must satisfy to be designated as a Public Health Institute, which criteria shall include, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) be a nonprofit organization located in New Jersey;
- (2) be recognized by the National Network of Public Health Institutes or any successor accreditation body for public health institutes;
- (3) possess the capacity to integrate and coordinate public health functions on a local, county, and Statewide level;
- (4) maintain a network of personnel with expertise in the areas of health care data collection and analysis, health care policy, health care information systems, and public health research; and
- (5) any other criteria established by the commissioner.

An entity designated as the Public Health Institute pursuant to the bill will enter into an agreement with the department requiring the entity to:

- (1) comply with all applicable laws and regulations necessary to qualify for and maintain its nonprofit status;
- (2) regularly consult with and give due consideration to the input and recommendations of the department and local health departments in carrying out its duties;
- (3) develop and submit to the department an operational plan;
- (4) submit to the department an initial startup plan of certain issues, projects and action items the Public Health Institute will pursue in the first three years of its designation;
- (5) submit periodic planning documents and progress reports to the department at such intervals as may be determined by the commissioner;
- (6) provide information, assistance, and services as may be required by the department in order to design, plan, implement or coordinate any projects, programs, initiatives, or services that advance the mutual purposes of the department and the Public Health Institute;
- (7) report any data collected or maintained by the Public Health Institute to the department; and
- (8) comply with any other requirements as may be determined by the commissioner.

The commissioner may, as a condition of a nonprofit entity maintaining its designation as the Public Health Institute, require such nonprofit entity to perform such additional tasks or satisfy additional requirements on a continuing basis. The commissioner may rescind the commissioner's designation of the Public Health Institute in accordance with the terms of agreement entered into pursuant to the bill.

The bill establishes in the department a special, non-lapsing fund to be known as the Public Health Institute Fund. Monies deposited in the fund will be dedicated for the support and funding of the establishment and maintenance of the Public Health Institute and any

projects, programs, initiatives, or services of the Public Health Institute.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments revise the findings and declarations section of the bill to provide more context on the purpose and scope of a Public Health Institute.

The committee amendments clarify that the Commissioner of Health (commissioner) is to designate only one non-profit entity to serve as the Public Health Institute. As introduced, the commissioner could designate one or more entities.

The committee amendments provide that the purpose of the Public Health Institute will also include: coordinating among local and county health departments, Regional Health Hubs, licensed health care facilities, and public health-related advocacy and membership organizations; and addressing the underlying systemic root causes of health disparities and inequities.

The committee amendments revise the selection criteria for the Public Health Institute and require that a nonprofit organization be recognized by the National Network of Public Health Institutes or any successor accreditation body for public health institutes. As introduced, a non-profit organization recognized by another membership or accreditation body for public health institutes could satisfy the criteria requirements.

The committee amendments provide that an entity designated as the Public Health Institute will also be required to regularly consult with and give due consideration to the input and recommendations of local health departments, in addition to the Department of Health.

The committee amendments clarify under which circumstances, and the manner in which, the commissioner may rescind the designation of the Public Health Institute.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3562

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 3, 2025

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3562 (1R).

This bill provides for the designation and establishment of a Public Health Institute in New Jersey.

The bill requires the Commissioner of Health (commissioner) to designate one entity to serve as the Public Health Institute pursuant to criteria established by the commissioner. The purpose and objective of the Public Health Institute will be to:

(1) coordinate among national, State, and local agencies, including, but not limited to, local and county health departments, Regional Health Hubs, licensed health care facilities, public health-related advocacy and membership organizations, and private organizations, for the purposes of promoting equitable public health services in New Jersey;

(2) provide timely and nimble administrative, operational, and fiscal support to public and private health agencies, community-based organizations, and other strategic partners;

(3) develop and implement projects, programs, initiatives, or services designed to improve public health outcomes, address racial disparities in public health, including the underlying systemic root causes of health disparities and inequities, and bridge gaps between public and private sector health care and community services;

(4) promote, support, and fund programs related to workforce development, education, applied research, policy development, and other initiatives that advance the purposes of the Public Health Institute;

(5) enter into contracts for the purchase of medical countermeasures, supplies, or therapeutics, or other products or service agreements as may be necessary to aid the Department of Health (department) in advancing or protecting the public health; and

(6) engage in charitable programs dedicated to the purposes and objectives of the Public Health Institute.

Under the bill, the commissioner will establish criteria that an entity is required to satisfy in order to be designated as a Public Health Institute, which criteria would include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) be a nonprofit organization located in New Jersey;

(2) be recognized by the National Network of Public Health Institutes or any successor accreditation body for public health institutes;

(3) possess the capacity to integrate and coordinate public health functions on a local, county, and Statewide level;

(4) maintain a network of personnel with expertise in the areas of health care data collection and analysis, health care policy, health care information systems, and public health research; and

(5) any other criteria established by the commissioner.

An entity designated as the Public Health Institute pursuant to the bill will enter into an agreement with the department requiring the entity to:

(1) comply with all applicable laws and regulations necessary to qualify for and maintain its nonprofit status;

(2) regularly consult with and give due consideration to the input and recommendations of the department and local health departments in carrying out its duties;

(3) develop and submit to the department an operational plan;

(4) submit to the department an initial startup plan of certain issues, projects and action items the Public Health Institute will pursue in the first three years of its designation;

(5) submit periodic planning documents and progress reports to the department at such intervals as may be determined by the commissioner;

(6) provide information, assistance, and services as may be required by the department in order to design, plan, implement or coordinate any projects, programs, initiatives, or services that advance the mutual purposes of the department and the Public Health Institute;

(7) report any data collected or maintained by the Public Health Institute to the department; and

(8) comply with any other requirements as may be determined by the commissioner.

The commissioner may, as a condition of a nonprofit entity maintaining its designation as the Public Health Institute, require such nonprofit entity to perform such additional tasks or satisfy additional requirements on a continuing basis. The commissioner may rescind the commissioner's designation of the Public Health Institute in accordance with the terms of agreement entered into pursuant to the bill.

The bill establishes in the department a special, non-lapsing fund to be known as the Public Health Institute Fund. Monies deposited in the fund will be dedicated for the support and funding of the establishment and maintenance of the Public Health Institute and any projects, programs, initiatives, or services of the Public Health Institute.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that the net fiscal impact of the bill cannot be determined.

State and local health departments may experience indeterminate workload increases relating to the operations of a Public Health Institute in the State.

State and local governments may also experience indeterminate savings to the extent the Public Health Institute receives private funding and utilizes those funds for public health programs or services that would otherwise have been provided by the Department of Health or county or local health departments.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3562 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 17, 2024

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Provides for designation and establishment of Public Health Institute in New Jersey.
- Type of Impact:** Annual net impact on State and local government expenditures.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Health, county and local health departments.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual</u>
State Net Cost Impact	Indeterminate
Local Net Cost Impact	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that the net fiscal impact of the bill cannot be determined.
- The State and local health departments may experience indeterminate workload increases relating to the operations of a Public Health Institute in the State.
- The State and local governments may also experience indeterminate savings to the extent the Public Health Institute receives private funding and utilizes those funds for public health programs or services that would otherwise have been provided by the Department of Health or county or local health departments.

BILL DESCRIPTION

The bill requires the Department of Health to designate a nonprofit entity to serve as the Public Health Institute pursuant to criteria established by the department. The purpose and objective of the Public Health Institute will be to:

(1) coordinate among national, State, and local agencies including, but not limited to local and county health departments and licensed health care facilities, and private organizations, to promote equitable public health services;

(2) provide operational and fiscal support to public and private health agencies;

(3) develop and implement programs to improve public health outcomes, address racial disparities in public health including the underlying systemic root causes of health disparities and inequities, and bridge gaps between public and private sector health care; and

(4) enter into contracts to purchase supplies or therapeutics, or service agreements necessary to help the department protect the public health.

The department will establish criteria for an entity to be designated as a public health institute, including that the entity be a nonprofit organization, located in New Jersey and recognized by the National Network of Public Health Institutes or any successor accreditation body for public health institutes.

An entity designated as a public health institute will agree to: maintain its nonprofit status; consult with and give consideration to the recommendations of the department and local health departments; develop and submit to the department the institute's startup and operational plans; provide planning documents and progress reports to the department; provide assistance and services, as required by the department to design or implement programs or services that advance the mutual goals of the department and the institute; and report any data collected or maintained by the institute to the department.

The bill establishes a dedicated, non-lapsing fund in the department, which will be the repository for any State appropriations, donations, or grant awards received to support and fund the creation and maintenance of the institute and any programs or services provided by the institute.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Although the Department of Health did not provide a fiscal note for the bill, the department stated that it does not anticipate the need for a State appropriation in order to implement the provisions of the bill.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that the net fiscal impact of the bill cannot be determined.

The State and local health departments may experience indeterminate workload increases relating to the operations of a Public Health Institute in the State. The OLS cannot predict the magnitude and scope of any projects, programs, initiatives, or services that will be undertaken by the institute.

The State and local governments may also experience indeterminate savings to the extent the Public Health Institute receives private funding and utilizes those funds for public health programs or services that would otherwise have been provided by the Department of Health or county or local health departments. Because the OLS has no way to anticipate privately funded institute programs or services that may supplant State, county, or locally funded public health initiatives, the magnitude of any future budgetary savings is uncertain.

Section: Human Services

*Analyst: Anne Cappabianca
Senior Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

ASSEMBLY, No. 4362

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 13, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Provides for designation and establishment of Public Health Institute in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/3/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning public health and supplementing Title 26 of the
2 Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. For over 25 years, New Jersey’s public health leaders have
9 pursued interest in establishing a public health institute dedicated to
10 promoting health, well-being, and quality of life for people
11 throughout New Jersey.

12 b. Public health institutes are typically independent, nonprofit
13 organizations that collaborate with public and private sector
14 stakeholders, philanthropists, charitable organizations, and other
15 agencies to foster public health solutions and systematically
16 improve the way health agencies and organizations respond to
17 public health threats and inequities.

18 c. Across the United States, there are currently over 40
19 designated public health institutes working in partnership with State
20 and local departments of health to enhance cross-sector initiatives
21 and bridge gaps between health care and community services.

22 d. These existing public health institutes help states leverage
23 and diversify the personnel, infrastructure and resources needed to
24 accelerate solutions to various forms of public health threats
25 including, but not limited to, communicable disease outbreaks,
26 chronic and sexually transmitted diseases, substance use epidemics,
27 issues related to food access and security, and systemic racial
28 inequities affecting health care.

29 e. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for a
30 public health institute in New Jersey that can work with public and
31 private health care officials and providers to ensure a coordinated,
32 resilient, equitable response to any public health emergency or state
33 of emergency.

34 f. In 2022, the Nicholson Foundation and Robert Wood
35 Johnson Foundation collaborated with a wide range of stakeholders
36 from public health, healthcare, social services, and community
37 organizations, and issued a report entitled, “Seizing the Moment:
38 How a Public Health Institute Would Advance Health Equity in
39 New Jersey.”

40 g. The report observed that New Jersey’s public health
41 infrastructure and system has been strained for several decades due
42 to a lack of funding and insufficient coordination across health and
43 related sectors, and further noted that the impact of social and
44 economic determinants of health have caused health inequities
45 along racial, ethnic, income, and other fault lines

46 h. The report recommended the establishment of a public
47 health institute in New Jersey that can support efforts to create a
48 more stable, robust, public health infrastructure, and provide timely

1 and nimble administrative and operational support to New Jersey's
2 public health agencies.

3 i. In order to support and sustain a relationship between State
4 government and a public health institute, it is necessary to establish
5 a framework by which the New Jersey Department of Health may
6 engage in a public-private partnership with an organization that can
7 serve as the State's "Public Health Institute."

8 j. The Public Health Institute will actively promote
9 collaborative and community-driven partnerships designed to
10 improve public health systems and services throughout the State.

11 k. The primary role of the Public Health Institute will be to
12 collaborate with State departments and agencies, as well as private
13 sector health care, academic, philanthropic, business and faith
14 communities, to coordinate and implement strategies in areas of
15 policymaking, research and innovation, data collection, workforce
16 development, and community-based interventions and services, to
17 improve the overall state of public health in New Jersey, with a
18 particular focus on eliminating racial disparities and inequities in
19 public health.

20

21 2. As used in this act:

22 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Health.

23 "Department" means the Department of Health

24 "Public Health Institute" means an entity designated by the
25 Department of Health as the State's Public Health Institute pursuant
26 to section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
27 as this bill).

28

29 3. a. The Commissioner of Health shall designate one or
30 more nonprofit entities to serve as the Public Health Institute
31 pursuant to criteria established by the commissioner in accordance
32 with this act.

33 b. The purpose and objective of the Public Health Institute
34 shall be to:

35 (1) coordinate among national, State, and local agencies, as well
36 as private organizations, for the purposes of promoting equitable
37 public health services in New Jersey;

38 (2) provide timely and nimble administrative, operational and
39 fiscal support to public and private health agencies, community-
40 based organizations, and other strategic partners;

41 (3) develop and implement projects, programs, initiatives, or
42 services designed to improve public health outcomes, address racial
43 disparities in public health, and bridge gaps between public and
44 private sector health care and community services;

45 (4) promote, support, and fund programs related to workforce
46 development, education, applied research, policy development, and
47 other initiatives that advance the purposes of the Public Health
48 Institute;

1 (5) enter into contracts for the purchase of medical
2 countermeasures, supplies or therapeutics, or other products or
3 service agreements as may be necessary to aid the department in
4 advancing or protecting the public health; and

5 (6) engage in charitable programs dedicated to the purposes and
6 objectives of the Public Health Institute.

7 c. The commissioner shall establish criteria that an entity must
8 satisfy to be designated as a Public Health Institute, which criteria
9 shall include, at a minimum, the following:

10 (1) be a nonprofit organization located in New Jersey which is
11 exempt from federal taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the
12 federal Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3));

13 (2) be recognized by the National Network of Public Health
14 Institutes or another membership or accreditation body for public
15 health institutes;

16 (3) possess the capacity to integrate and coordinate public health
17 functions on a local, county, and Statewide level;

18 (4) maintain a network of personnel with expertise in the areas
19 of health care data collection and analysis, health care policy, health
20 care information systems, and public health research; and

21 (5) any other criteria established by the commissioner.

22 d. An entity designated as the Public Health Institute pursuant
23 to subsection a. of this section shall enter into an agreement with
24 the department requiring the entity to:

25 (1) comply with all applicable laws and regulations necessary to
26 qualify for and maintain its nonprofit status, including, but not
27 limited to, the "New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation Act,"
28 N.J.S.15A:1-1 et seq., and section 501(c) of the federal Internal
29 Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.501(c));

30 (2) regularly consult with and give due consideration to the
31 input and recommendations of the department in carrying out its
32 duties under this act;

33 (3) develop and submit to the department an operational plan
34 that includes a mission statement that supports, complements, and
35 supplements the missions of the department;

36 (4) submit to the department an initial startup plan of certain
37 issues, projects and action items the Public Health Institute shall
38 pursue in the first three years of its designation;

39 (5) submit periodic planning documents and progress reports to
40 the department at such intervals as may be determined by the
41 commissioner;

42 (6) provide information, assistance, and services as may be
43 required by the department in order to design, plan, implement or
44 coordinate any projects, programs, initiatives, or services that
45 advance the mutual purposes of the department and the Public
46 Health Institute;

47 (7) report any data collected or maintained by the Public Health
48 Institute to the department, including data related to public health

1 projects, programs, initiatives or services, and any other
2 information that may advance the mutual purposes of the
3 department and the Public Health Institute, provided that such data
4 is submitted to the department in a manner consistent with any
5 applicable State and federal law, rule, regulation, or agreement; and

6 (8) comply with any other requirements as may be determined
7 by the commissioner.

8 e. The commissioner may, as a condition of a nonprofit entity
9 maintaining its designation as the Public Health Institute, require
10 such nonprofit entity to perform such additional tasks or satisfy
11 additional requirements on a continuing basis.

12 f. The commissioner may, at any time, rescind a designation of
13 Public Health Institute for any reason.

14

15 4. There is created in the Department of Health a special, non-
16 lapsing fund to be known as the Public Health Institute Fund. There
17 shall be deposited into the fund the amounts made available for the
18 purposes of the fund and monetary donations or grants that may be
19 received from any source for the purposes of the fund and any
20 interest earned thereon. Monies deposited in the fund shall be
21 dedicated for the support and funding of the establishment and
22 maintenance of the Public Health Institute and any projects,
23 programs, initiatives, or services of the Public Health Institute.

24

25 5. The Commissioner of Health may adopt rules and
26 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
27 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to
28 implement the provisions of this act.

29

30 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

31

32

33

STATEMENT

34

35 This bill provides for the designation and establishment of a
36 Public Health Institute in New Jersey.

37 The bill requires the Commissioner of Health (commissioner) to
38 designate one or more nonprofit entities to serve as the Public
39 Health Institute pursuant to criteria established by the
40 commissioner. The purpose and objective of the Public Health
41 Institute will be to:

42 (1) coordinate among national, State, and local agencies, as well
43 as private organizations, for the purposes of promoting equitable
44 public health services in New Jersey;

45 (2) provide timely and nimble administrative, operational and
46 fiscal support to public and private health agencies, community-
47 based organizations, and other strategic partners;

1 (3) develop and implement projects, programs, initiatives, or
2 services designed to improve public health outcomes, address racial
3 disparities in public health, and bridge gaps between public and
4 private sector health care and community services;

5 (4) promote, support, and fund programs related to workforce
6 development, education, applied research, policy development, and
7 other initiatives that advance the purposes of the Public Health
8 Institute;

9 (5) enter into contracts for the purchase of medical
10 countermeasures, supplies or therapeutics, or other products or
11 service agreements as may be necessary to aid the department in
12 advancing or protecting the public health; and

13 (6) engage in charitable programs dedicated to the purposes and
14 objectives of the Public Health Institute.

15 Under the bill, the commissioner will establish criteria that an
16 entity must satisfy to be designated as a Public Health Institute,
17 which criteria shall include, at a minimum, the following:

18 (1) be a nonprofit organization located in New Jersey;

19 (2) be recognized by the National Network of Public Health
20 Institutes or another membership or accreditation body for public
21 health institutes;

22 (3) possess the capacity to integrate and coordinate public health
23 functions on a local, county, and Statewide level;

24 (4) maintain a network of personnel with expertise in the areas
25 of health care data collection and analysis, health care policy, health
26 care information systems, and public health research; and

27 (5) any other criteria established by the commissioner.

28 An entity designated as the Public Health Institute pursuant to
29 the bill will enter into an agreement with the department requiring
30 the entity to:

31 (1) comply with all applicable laws and regulations necessary to
32 qualify for and maintain its nonprofit status;

33 (2) regularly consult with and give due consideration to the
34 input and recommendations of the department in carrying out its
35 duties;

36 (3) develop and submit to the department an operational plan;

37 (4) submit to the department an initial startup plan of certain
38 issues, projects and action items the Public Health Institute will
39 pursue in the first three years of its designation;

40 (5) submit periodic planning documents and progress reports to
41 the department at such intervals as may be determined by the
42 commissioner;

43 (6) provide information, assistance, and services as may be
44 required by the department in order to design, plan, implement or
45 coordinate any projects, programs, initiatives, or services that
46 advance the mutual purposes of the department and the Public
47 Health Institute;

A4362 CONAWAY, SPEIGHT

1 (7) report any data collected or maintained by the Public Health
2 Institute to the department; and

3 (8) comply with any other requirements as may be determined
4 by the commissioner.

5 The commissioner may, as a condition of a nonprofit entity
6 maintaining its designation as the Public Health Institute, require
7 such nonprofit entity to perform such additional tasks or satisfy
8 additional requirements on a continuing basis. The commissioner
9 may, at any time, rescind a designation of Public Health Institute
10 for any reason.

11 The bill establishes in the Department of Health a special, non-
12 lapsing fund to be known as the Public Health Institute Fund.
13 Monies deposited in the fund will be dedicated for the support and
14 funding of the establishment and maintenance of the Public Health
15 Institute and any projects, programs, initiatives, or services of the
16 Public Health Institute.

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4362

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 13, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Provides for designation and establishment of Public Health Institute in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Health Committee on June 3, 2024, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/3/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning public health and supplementing Title 26 of the
2 Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. For over 25 years, New Jersey’s public health leaders have
9 pursued interest in establishing a public health institute dedicated to
10 promoting health, well-being, and quality of life for people throughout
11 New Jersey.

12 b. Public health institutes are typically independent, nonprofit
13 organizations that collaborate with public and private sector
14 stakeholders, philanthropists, charitable organizations, and other
15 agencies to foster public health solutions and systematically improve
16 the way health agencies and organizations respond to public health
17 threats and inequities.

18 c. Across the United States, there are currently over 40 designated
19 public health institutes working in partnership with State and local
20 departments of health to enhance cross-sector initiatives and bridge
21 gaps between health care and community services.

22 d. These existing public health institutes help states leverage and
23 diversify the personnel, infrastructure and resources needed to
24 accelerate solutions to various forms of public health threats including,
25 but not limited to, communicable disease outbreaks, chronic and
26 sexually transmitted diseases, substance use epidemics, issues related
27 to food access and security, and systemic racial inequities affecting
28 health care.

29 e. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for a public
30 health institute in New Jersey that can work with public and private
31 health care officials and providers to ensure a coordinated, resilient,
32 equitable response to any public health emergency or state of
33 emergency.

34 f. In 2022, the Nicholson Foundation and Robert Wood Johnson
35 Foundation collaborated with a wide range of stakeholders from public
36 health, healthcare, social services, and community organizations, and
37 issued a report entitled, “Seizing the Moment: How a Public Health
38 Institute Would Advance Health Equity in New Jersey.”

39 g. The report observed that New Jersey’s public health
40 infrastructure and system has been strained for several decades due to
41 a lack of funding and insufficient coordination across health and
42 related sectors, and further noted that the impact of social and
43 economic determinants of health have caused health inequities along
44 racial, ethnic, income, and other fault lines

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AHE committee amendments adopted June 3, 2024.

1 h. The report recommended the establishment of a public health
2 institute in New Jersey that can support efforts to create a more stable,
3 robust, public health infrastructure, and provide timely and nimble
4 administrative and operational support to New Jersey's public health
5 agencies.

6 i. In order to support and sustain a relationship between State
7 government and a public health institute, it is necessary to establish a
8 framework by which the New Jersey Department of Health may
9 engage in a public-private partnership with an organization that can
10 serve as the State's "Public Health Institute."

11 j. The Public Health Institute will actively promote collaborative
12 and community-driven partnerships designed to improve public health
13 systems and services throughout the State.

14 k. The primary role of the Public Health Institute will be to
15 collaborate with State departments and agencies, ¹local health
16 departments,¹ as well as private sector health care, academic,
17 philanthropic, business and faith communities, to coordinate and
18 implement strategies in areas of policymaking, research and
19 innovation, data collection, workforce development, and community-
20 based interventions and services, to improve the overall state of public
21 health in New Jersey, with a particular focus on eliminating racial
22 disparities and inequities in public health.

23
24 2. As used in this act:

25 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Health.

26 "Department" means the Department of Health

27 "Public Health Institute" means an entity designated by the
28 Department of Health as the State's Public Health Institute pursuant
29 to section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
30 as this bill).

31
32 3. a. The Commissioner of Health shall designate one or
33 more nonprofit entities to serve as the Public Health Institute pursuant
34 to criteria established by the commissioner in accordance with this act.

35 b. The purpose and objective of the Public Health Institute shall
36 be to:

37 (1) coordinate among national, State, and local agencies, as well
38 as private organizations, for the purposes of promoting equitable
39 public health services in New Jersey;

40 (2) provide timely and nimble administrative, operational and
41 fiscal support to public and private health agencies, community-based
42 organizations, and other strategic partners;

43 (3) develop and implement projects, programs, initiatives, or
44 services designed to improve public health outcomes, address racial
45 disparities in public health, and bridge gaps between public and private
46 sector health care and community services;

47 (4) promote, support, and fund programs related to workforce
48 development, education, applied research, policy development, and

1 other initiatives that advance the purposes of the Public Health
2 Institute;

3 (5) enter into contracts for the purchase of medical
4 countermeasures, supplies or therapeutics, or other products or service
5 agreements as may be necessary to aid the department in advancing or
6 protecting the public health; and

7 (6) engage in charitable programs dedicated to the purposes and
8 objectives of the Public Health Institute.

9 c. The commissioner shall establish criteria that an entity must
10 satisfy to be designated as a Public Health Institute, which criteria
11 shall include, at a minimum, the following:

12 (1) be a nonprofit organization located in New Jersey which is
13 exempt from federal taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the
14 federal Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3));

15 (2) be recognized by the National Network of Public Health
16 Institutes or another membership or accreditation body for public
17 health institutes;

18 (3) possess the capacity to integrate and coordinate public health
19 functions on a local, county, and Statewide level;

20 (4) maintain a network of personnel with expertise in the areas of
21 health care data collection and analysis, health care policy, health care
22 information systems, and public health research; and

23 (5) any other criteria established by the commissioner.

24 d. An entity designated as the Public Health Institute pursuant to
25 subsection a. of this section shall enter into an agreement with the
26 department requiring the entity to:

27 (1) comply with all applicable laws and regulations necessary to
28 qualify for and maintain its nonprofit status, including, but not limited
29 to, the "New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation Act," N.J.S.15A:1-1 et
30 seq., and section 501(c) of the federal Internal Revenue Code (26
31 U.S.C. s.501(c));

32 (2) regularly consult with and give due consideration to the input
33 and recommendations of the ¹【department】 Department of Health and
34 local health departments¹ in carrying out its duties under this act;

35 (3) develop and submit to the department an operational plan that
36 includes a mission statement that supports, complements, and
37 supplements the missions of the department;

38 (4) submit to the department an initial startup plan of certain
39 issues, projects and action items the Public Health Institute shall
40 pursue in the first three years of its designation;

41 (5) submit periodic planning documents and progress reports to the
42 department at such intervals as may be determined by the
43 commissioner;

44 (6) provide information, assistance, and services as may be
45 required by the department in order to design, plan, implement or
46 coordinate any projects, programs, initiatives, or services that advance
47 the mutual purposes of the department and the Public Health Institute;

1 (7) report any data collected or maintained by the Public Health
2 Institute to the department, including data related to public health
3 projects, programs, initiatives or services, and any other information
4 that may advance the mutual purposes of the department and the
5 Public Health Institute, provided that such data is submitted to the
6 department in a manner consistent with any applicable State and
7 federal law, rule, regulation, or agreement; and

8 (8) comply with any other requirements as may be determined by
9 the commissioner.

10 e. The commissioner may, as a condition of a nonprofit entity
11 maintaining its designation as the Public Health Institute, require such
12 nonprofit entity to perform such additional tasks or satisfy additional
13 requirements on a continuing basis.

14 f. The commissioner may, at any time, rescind a designation of
15 Public Health Institute for any reason.

16

17 4. There is created in the Department of Health a special, non-
18 lapsing fund to be known as the Public Health Institute Fund. There
19 shall be deposited into the fund the amounts made available for the
20 purposes of the fund and monetary donations or grants that may be
21 received from any source for the purposes of the fund and any
22 interest earned thereon. Monies deposited in the fund shall be
23 dedicated for the support and funding of the establishment and
24 maintenance of the Public Health Institute and any projects,
25 programs, initiatives, or services of the Public Health Institute.

26

27 5. The Commissioner of Health may adopt rules and
28 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
29 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to
30 implement the provisions of this act.

31

32 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4362

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 13, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex and Hudson)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Provides for designation and establishment of Public Health Institute in New Jersey.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Appropriations Committee on March 20, 2025, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/3/2024)

1 AN ACT concerning public health and supplementing Title 26 of the
2 Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. For over 25 years, New Jersey’s public health leaders have
9 pursued interest in establishing a public health institute dedicated to
10 promoting health, well-being, and quality of life for people throughout
11 New Jersey.

12 b. Public health institutes are typically independent, nonprofit
13 organizations that collaborate with public and private sector
14 stakeholders, philanthropists, charitable organizations, and other
15 agencies to foster public health solutions and systematically improve
16 the way health agencies and organizations respond to public health
17 threats and inequities.

18 c. Across the United States, there are currently over 40 designated
19 public health institutes working in partnership with State and local
20 departments of health to enhance cross-sector initiatives and bridge
21 gaps between health care and community services.

22 d. These existing public health institutes help states leverage and
23 diversify the personnel, infrastructure and resources needed to
24 accelerate solutions to various forms of public health threats including,
25 but not limited to, communicable disease outbreaks, chronic and
26 sexually transmitted diseases, substance use epidemics, issues related
27 to food access and security, and systemic racial inequities affecting
28 health care.

29 e. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified the need for a public
30 health institute in New Jersey that can work with public and private
31 health care officials and providers to ensure a coordinated, resilient,
32 equitable response to any public health emergency or state of
33 emergency.

34 f. In 2022, the Nicholson Foundation and Robert Wood Johnson
35 Foundation collaborated with a wide range of stakeholders from public
36 health, healthcare, social services, and community organizations, and
37 issued a report entitled, “Seizing the Moment: How a Public Health
38 Institute Would Advance Health Equity in New Jersey.”

39 g. The report observed that New Jersey’s public health
40 infrastructure and system has been strained for several decades due to
41 a lack of funding and insufficient coordination across health and
42 related sectors, and further noted that the impact of social and
43 economic determinants of health have caused health inequities along
44 racial, ethnic, income, and other fault lines

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly AHE committee amendments adopted June 3, 2024.

²Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted March 20, 2025.

1 h. The report recommended the establishment of a public health
2 institute in New Jersey ²【that can support】 centered around² efforts to
3 address the root causes of health disparities and inequities.² create a
4 more stable, robust, public health infrastructure ²that systemically
5 advances health equity and quality of life for all² , and provide timely
6 and nimble administrative and operational support to New Jersey’s
7 public health agencies.

8 i. In order to support and sustain a relationship between State
9 government and a public health institute, it is necessary to establish a
10 framework by which the New Jersey Department of Health may
11 engage in a public-private partnership with an organization that can
12 serve as the State’s “Public Health Institute.”

13 j. The Public Health Institute will actively promote collaborative
14 and community-driven partnerships designed to improve public health
15 systems and services throughout the State.

16 k. The primary role of the Public Health Institute will be to
17 collaborate with State departments and agencies, ²【local health
18 departments.¹】² as well as private sector health care, academic,
19 philanthropic, business and faith communities, ²and New Jersey’s
20 Regional Health Hubs.² to coordinate and implement strategies in
21 areas of policymaking, research and innovation, data collection,
22 workforce development, and community-based interventions and
23 services, to improve the overall state of public health in New Jersey,
24 with a particular focus on eliminating racial disparities and inequities
25 in public health.

26
27 2. As used in this act:

28 “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Health.

29 “Department” means the Department of Health

30 “Public Health Institute” means an entity designated by the
31 Department of Health as the State’s Public Health Institute pursuant
32 to section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
33 as this bill).

34
35 3. a. The Commissioner of Health shall designate ²【one or
36 more】 a² nonprofit ²【entities】 entity² to serve as the Public Health
37 Institute pursuant to criteria established by the commissioner in
38 accordance with this act.

39 b. The purpose and objective of the Public Health Institute shall
40 be to:

41 (1) coordinate among national, State, and local agencies ²【, as
42 well as】 including, but not limited to, local and county health
43 departments, Regional Health Hubs designated pursuant to P.L.
44 2019, c.517 (C.30:4D-8.16 et seq.), licensed health care facilities,
45 public health-related advocacy and membership organizations, and²
46 private organizations, for the purposes of promoting equitable
47 public health services in New Jersey;

- 1 (2) provide timely and nimble administrative, operational and
2 fiscal support to public and private health agencies, community-
3 based organizations, and other strategic partners;
 - 4 (3) develop and implement projects, programs, initiatives, or
5 services designed to improve public health outcomes, address racial
6 disparities in public health ²including the underlying systemic root
7 causes of health disparities and inequities² , and bridge gaps
8 between public and private sector health care and community
9 services;
 - 10 (4) promote, support, and fund programs related to workforce
11 development, education, applied research, policy development, and
12 other initiatives that advance the purposes of the Public Health
13 Institute;
 - 14 (5) enter into contracts for the purchase of medical
15 countermeasures, supplies or therapeutics, or other products or
16 service agreements as may be necessary to aid the department in
17 advancing or protecting the public health; and
 - 18 (6) engage in charitable programs dedicated to the purposes and
19 objectives of the Public Health Institute.
- 20 c. The commissioner shall establish criteria that an entity must
21 satisfy to be designated as a Public Health Institute, which criteria
22 shall include, at a minimum, the following:
- 23 (1) be a nonprofit organization located in New Jersey which is
24 exempt from federal taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the
25 federal Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.501(c)(3));
 - 26 (2) be recognized by the National Network of Public Health
27 Institutes or ²**【another membership or】** any successor² accreditation
28 body for public health institutes;
 - 29 (3) possess the capacity to integrate and coordinate public health
30 functions on a local, county, and Statewide level;
 - 31 (4) maintain a network of personnel with expertise in the areas
32 of health care data collection and analysis, health care policy, health
33 care information systems, and public health research; and
 - 34 (5) any other criteria established by the commissioner.
- 35 d. An entity designated as the Public Health Institute pursuant to
36 subsection a. of this section shall enter into an agreement with the
37 department requiring the entity to:
- 38 (1) comply with all applicable laws and regulations necessary to
39 qualify for and maintain its nonprofit status, including, but not
40 limited to, the “New Jersey Nonprofit Corporation Act,”
41 N.J.S.15A:1-1 et seq., and section 501(c) of the federal Internal
42 Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. s.501(c));
 - 43 (2) regularly consult with and give due consideration to the
44 input and recommendations of the ¹**【department】** Department of
45 Health and local health departments¹ in carrying out its duties under
46 this act;

- 1 (3) develop and submit to the department an operational plan
2 that includes a mission statement that supports, complements, and
3 supplements the missions of the department;
- 4 (4) submit to the department an initial startup plan of certain
5 issues, projects and action items the Public Health Institute shall
6 pursue in the first three years of its designation;
- 7 (5) submit periodic planning documents and progress reports to
8 the department at such intervals as may be determined by the
9 commissioner;
- 10 (6) provide information, assistance, and services as may be
11 required by the department in order to design, plan, implement or
12 coordinate any projects, programs, initiatives, or services that
13 advance the mutual purposes of the department and the Public
14 Health Institute;
- 15 (7) report any data collected or maintained by the Public Health
16 Institute to the department, including data related to public health
17 projects, programs, initiatives or services, and any other
18 information that may advance the mutual purposes of the
19 department and the Public Health Institute, provided that such data
20 is submitted to the department in a manner consistent with any
21 applicable State and federal law, rule, regulation, or agreement; and
- 22 (8) comply with any other requirements as may be determined
23 by the commissioner.
- 24 e. The commissioner may, as a condition of a nonprofit entity
25 maintaining its designation as the Public Health Institute, require
26 such nonprofit entity to perform such additional tasks or satisfy
27 additional requirements on a continuing basis.
- 28 f. The commissioner may ²[, at any time,]² rescind ²[a] the
29 commissioner's² designation of ²the² Public Health Institute ²[for
30 any reason] in accordance with the terms of agreement entered into
31 pursuant to subsection d. of this section².
- 32
- 33 4. There is created in the Department of Health a special, non-
34 lapsing fund to be known as the Public Health Institute Fund. There
35 shall be deposited into the fund the amounts made available for the
36 purposes of the fund and monetary donations or grants that may be
37 received from any source for the purposes of the fund and any
38 interest earned thereon. Monies deposited in the fund shall be
39 dedicated for the support and funding of the establishment and
40 maintenance of the Public Health Institute and any projects,
41 programs, initiatives, or services of the Public Health Institute.
- 42
- 43 5. The Commissioner of Health may adopt rules and
44 regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
45 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), as may be necessary to
46 implement the provisions of this act.
- 47
- 48 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4362

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 3, 2024

The Assembly Health Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4362.

As amended, this bill provides for the designation and establishment of a Public Health Institute (institute).

The bill requires the Commissioner of Health (commissioner) to designate one or more nonprofit entities to serve as the institute. The institute will:

(1) coordinate among national, State, and local agencies, as well as private organizations, for the purposes of promoting equitable public health services in New Jersey;

(2) provide timely administrative, operational, and fiscal support to public and private health agencies, community-based organizations, and other strategic partners;

(3) develop and implement projects, programs, initiatives, or services designed to improve public health outcomes, address racial disparities in public health, and bridge gaps between public and private sector health care and community services;

(4) promote, support, and fund programs related to workforce development, education, applied research, policy development, and other initiatives that advance the purposes of the institute;

(5) enter into contracts for the purchase of medical countermeasures, supplies, or therapeutics, or other products or service agreements as may be necessary to aid the department in advancing or protecting the public health; and

(6) engage in charitable programs dedicated to the purposes and objectives of the institute.

The commissioner will establish the following criteria for an entity to be designated as an institute:

(1) be a nonprofit organization located in New Jersey;

(2) be recognized by the National Network of Public Health Institutes or another membership or accreditation body for public health institutes;

(3) possess the capacity to integrate and coordinate public health functions on a local, county, and Statewide level;

(4) maintain a network of personnel with expertise in the areas of health care data collection and analysis, health care policy, health care information systems, and public health research; and

(5) any other criteria established by the commissioner.

An entity designated as the institute will enter into an agreement with the department requiring the entity to:

(1) comply with all applicable laws and regulations necessary to qualify for and maintain its nonprofit status;

(2) regularly consult with and give due consideration to the input and recommendations of the Department of Health and local health departments in carrying out its duties;

(3) develop and submit to the department an operational plan;

(4) submit to the department an initial startup plan of certain issues, projects, and action items the institute will pursue in the first three years of its designation;

(5) submit periodic planning documents and progress reports to the department at such intervals as may be determined by the commissioner;

(6) provide information, assistance, and services as may be required by the department in order to design, plan, implement, or coordinate any projects, programs, initiatives, or services that advance the mutual purposes of the department and the institute;

(7) report any data collected or maintained by the institute to the department; and

(8) comply with any other requirements as may be determined by the commissioner.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments require the Public Health Institute to collaborate with local health departments.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4362

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 20, 2025

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4362 (1R).

As amended and reported, this bill provides for the designation and establishment of a Public Health Institute in New Jersey.

The bill requires the Commissioner of Health (commissioner) to designate one entity to serve as the Public Health Institute pursuant to criteria established by the commissioner. The purpose and objective of the Public Health Institute will be to:

(1) coordinate among national, State, and local agencies, including, but not limited to, local and county health departments, Regional Health Hubs, licensed health care facilities, public health-related advocacy and membership organizations, and private organizations, for the purposes of promoting equitable public health services in New Jersey;

(2) provide timely and nimble administrative, operational, and fiscal support to public and private health agencies, community-based organizations, and other strategic partners;

(3) develop and implement projects, programs, initiatives, or services designed to improve public health outcomes, address racial disparities in public health, including the underlying systemic root causes of health disparities and inequities, and bridge gaps between public and private sector health care and community services;

(4) promote, support, and fund programs related to workforce development, education, applied research, policy development, and other initiatives that advance the purposes of the Public Health Institute;

(5) enter into contracts for the purchase of medical countermeasures, supplies, or therapeutics, or other products or service agreements as may be necessary to aid the Department of Health (department) in advancing or protecting the public health; and

(6) engage in charitable programs dedicated to the purposes and objectives of the Public Health Institute.

Under the bill, the commissioner will establish criteria that an entity is required to satisfy in order to be designated as a Public Health Institute, which criteria would include, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) be a nonprofit organization located in New Jersey;
- (2) be recognized by the National Network of Public Health Institutes or any successor accreditation body for public health institutes;
- (3) possess the capacity to integrate and coordinate public health functions on a local, county, and Statewide level;
- (4) maintain a network of personnel with expertise in the areas of health care data collection and analysis, health care policy, health care information systems, and public health research; and
- (5) any other criteria established by the commissioner.

An entity designated as the Public Health Institute pursuant to the bill will enter into an agreement with the department requiring the entity to:

- (1) comply with all applicable laws and regulations necessary to qualify for and maintain its nonprofit status;
- (2) regularly consult with and give due consideration to the input and recommendations of the department and local health departments in carrying out its duties;
- (3) develop and submit to the department an operational plan;
- (4) submit to the department an initial startup plan of certain issues, projects and action items the Public Health Institute will pursue in the first three years of its designation;
- (5) submit periodic planning documents and progress reports to the department at such intervals as may be determined by the commissioner;
- (6) provide information, assistance, and services as may be required by the department in order to design, plan, implement or coordinate any projects, programs, initiatives, or services that advance the mutual purposes of the department and the Public Health Institute;
- (7) report any data collected or maintained by the Public Health Institute to the department; and
- (8) comply with any other requirements as may be determined by the commissioner.

The commissioner may, as a condition of a nonprofit entity maintaining its designation as the Public Health Institute, require such nonprofit entity to perform such additional tasks or satisfy additional requirements on a continuing basis. The commissioner may rescind the commissioner's designation of the Public Health Institute in accordance with the terms of agreement entered into pursuant to the bill.

The bill establishes in the department a special, non-lapsing fund to be known as the Public Health Institute Fund. Monies deposited in the fund will be dedicated for the support and funding of the establishment and maintenance of the Public Health Institute and any

projects, programs, initiatives, or services of the Public Health Institute.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments revise the findings and declarations section of the bill to provide more context on the purpose and scope of a Public Health Institute.

The committee amendments clarify that the Commissioner of Health (commissioner) is to designate only one non-profit entity to serve as the Public Health Institute. As introduced, the commissioner could designate one or more entities.

The committee amendments provide that the purpose of the Public Health Institute will also include: coordinating among local and county health departments, Regional Health Hubs, licensed health care facilities, and public health-related advocacy and membership organizations; and addressing the underlying systemic root causes of health disparities and inequities.

The committee amendments revise the selection criteria for the Public Health Institute and require that a nonprofit organization be recognized by the National Network of Public Health Institutes or any successor accreditation body for public health institutes. As introduced, a non-profit organization recognized by another membership or accreditation body for public health institutes could satisfy the criteria requirements.

The committee amendments provide that an entity designated as the Public Health Institute will also be required to regularly consult with and give due consideration to the input and recommendations of local health departments, in addition to the Department of Health.

The committee amendments clarify under which circumstances, and the manner in which, the commissioner may rescind the designation of the Public Health Institute.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that the net fiscal impact of the bill cannot be determined.

The State and local health departments may experience indeterminate workload increases related to the operations of a Public Health Institute in the State.

The State and local governments may also experience indeterminate savings to the extent the Public Health Institute receives private funding and utilizes those funds for public health programs or services that would otherwise have been provided by the Department of Health or county or local health departments.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4362

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

DATED: OCTOBER 15, 2024

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Provides for designation and establishment of Public Health Institute in New Jersey.
- Type of Impact:** Annual net impact on State and local government expenditures.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Health, county and local health departments.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual</u>
State Net Cost Impact	Indeterminate
Local Net Cost Impact	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that the net fiscal impact of the bill cannot be determined.
- The State and local health departments may experience indeterminate workload increases relating to the operations of a Public Health Institute in the State.
- The State and local governments may also experience indeterminate savings to the extent the Public Health Institute receives private funding and utilizes those funds for public health programs or services that would otherwise have been provided by the Department of Health or county or local health departments.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes a State Public Health Institute, and requires the Department of Health to designate one or more nonprofit entities to serve as the institute. The institute will be responsible for:

- (1) coordinating among national, State, and local agencies, and private organizations, to promote equitable public health services;
- (2) providing operational and fiscal support to public and private health agencies;
- (3) developing and implementing programs to improve public health outcomes, address racial disparities in public health, and bridge gaps between public and private sector health care; and
- (4) entering into contracts to purchase supplies or therapeutics, or service agreements necessary to help the department protect the public health.

The department will establish criteria for an entity to be designated as a public health institute, including that the entity be a nonprofit organization, located in New Jersey and recognized by the National Network of Public Health Institutes or another membership or accreditation body for public health institutes.

An entity designated as a public health institute will agree to: maintain its nonprofit status; consult with and give consideration to the recommendations of the department and local health departments; develop and submit to the department the institute's startup and operational plans; provide planning documents and progress reports to the department; provide assistance and services, as required by the department to design or implement programs or services that advance the mutual goals of the department and the institute; and report any data collected or maintained by the institute to the department.

The bill establishes a dedicated, non-lapsing fund in the department, which will be the repository for any State appropriations, donations, or grant awards received to support and fund the creation and maintenance of the institute and any programs or services provided by the institute.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Although the Department of Health did not provide a fiscal note for the bill, the department stated that it does not anticipate the need for a State appropriation in order to implement the provisions of the bill.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that the net fiscal impact of the bill cannot be determined.

The State and local health departments may experience indeterminate workload increases relating to the operations of a Public Health Institute in the State. The OLS cannot predict the magnitude and scope of any projects, programs, initiatives, or services that will be undertaken by the institute.

The State and local governments may also experience indeterminate savings to the extent the Public Health Institute receives private funding and utilizes those funds for public health programs or services that would otherwise have been provided by the Department of Health or county or local health departments. Because the OLS has no way to anticipate privately funded institute programs or services that may supplant State, county, or locally funded public health initiatives, the magnitude of any future budgetary savings is uncertain.

Section: Human Services

*Analyst: Anne Cappabianca
Senior Fiscal Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4362

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE**

DATED: MARCH 26, 2025

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Provides for designation and establishment of Public Health Institute in New Jersey.
- Type of Impact:** Annual net impact on State and local government expenditures.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Health, county and local health departments.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Annual</u>
State Net Cost Impact	Indeterminate
Local Net Cost Impact	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that the net fiscal impact of the bill cannot be determined.
- The State and local health departments may experience indeterminate workload increases relating to the operations of a Public Health Institute in the State.
- The State and local governments may also experience indeterminate savings to the extent the Public Health Institute receives private funding and utilizes those funds for public health programs or services that would otherwise have been provided by the Department of Health or county or local health departments.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes a State Public Health Institute, and requires the Department of Health to designate a nonprofit entity to serve as the institute. The institute will be responsible for:

(1) coordinating among national, State, and local agencies, and private organizations, to promote equitable public health services;

- (2) providing operational and fiscal support to public and private health agencies;
- (3) developing and implementing programs to improve public health outcomes, address racial disparities in public health, and bridge gaps between public and private sector health care;
- (4) promoting, supporting, and funding programs related to workforce development, education, applied research, policy development, and other initiatives that advance the purposes of the Public Health Institute;
- (5) entering into contracts to purchase supplies or therapeutics, or service agreements necessary to help the department protect the public health; and
- (6) engaging in charitable programs dedicated to the purposes and objectives of the Public Health Institute.

The department will establish criteria for an entity to be designated as a public health institute, including that the entity be a nonprofit organization, located in New Jersey, and recognized by the National Network of Public Health Institutes or any successor accreditation body for public health institutes.

An entity designated as a public health institute will agree to: maintain its nonprofit status; consult with and give consideration to the recommendations of the department and local health departments; develop and submit to the department the institute's startup and operational plans; provide planning documents and progress reports to the department; provide assistance and services, as required by the department, to design or implement programs or services that advance the mutual goals of the department and the institute; and report any data collected or maintained by the institute to the department.

The bill establishes a dedicated, non-lapsing fund in the department, which will be the repository for any State appropriations, donations, or grant awards received to support and fund the creation and maintenance of the institute and any programs or services provided by the institute.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Although the Department of Health did not provide a fiscal note for the bill, the department stated that it does not anticipate the need for a State appropriation in order to implement the provisions of the bill.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that the net fiscal impact of the bill cannot be determined.

The State and local health departments may experience indeterminate workload increases relating to the operations of a Public Health Institute in the State. The OLS cannot predict the magnitude and scope of any projects, programs, initiatives, or services that will be undertaken by the institute.

The State and local governments may also experience indeterminate savings to the extent the Public Health Institute receives private funding and utilizes those funds for public health programs or services that would otherwise have been provided by the Department of Health or county or local health departments. Because the OLS has no way to anticipate privately funded institute programs or services that may supplant State, county, or locally funded public health initiatives, the magnitude of any future budgetary savings is uncertain.

Section: Human Services

*Analyst: Sarah Schmidt
Principal Research Analyst*

*Approved: Thomas Koenig
Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).

Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Authorizing the Department of Health to Designate a Public Health Institute

04/22/2025

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today signed legislation authorizing the Department of Health to designate a Public Health Institute (PHI), underscoring his commitment to strengthening public health outcomes for all New Jerseyans. The PHI will play a key role in advancing public health initiatives, streamlining coordination across agencies and sectors, and promoting equitable health outcomes and data-driven solutions that will benefit communities throughout the state.

“New Jersey is taking an important step to strengthen our health systems across communities. The Public Health Institute will help us close gaps, modernize our response, and build resilience for the future, enabling us to support positive health outcomes for more New Jerseyans,” **said Governor Murphy**. “By continuing to prioritize building our public health system, we are ensuring that our state is not only better prepared for the next public health crisis – we are also raising the bar for day-to-day care and working to eliminate disparities that have impacted our most vulnerable communities. Today’s bill signing would not have been possible without the support of our current and former Health Commissioners. I thank Commissioner Baston and former Commissioner Persichilli for their tireless advocacy for a better, more equitable public health system that is ready to meet the needs of New Jerseyans. ”

Under the bill, the Commissioner of Health is responsible for designating a nonprofit organization that meets certain criteria to serve as the Public Health Institute. The nonprofit must be recognized by the National Network of Public Health Institutes; possess the capacity to integrate and coordinate public health functions on a local, county, and statewide level; and maintain a network with relevant health policy and research experience, among other things. The organization chosen must enter into an agreement with the Department of Health and provide operating plans and furnish periodic progress reports to the Department of Health.

“This public-private partnership will strengthen our public health infrastructure and help us respond more effectively to emerging health threats and trends,” **said Department of Health Commissioner Kaitlan Baston, MD, MSc, DFASAM**. “As America’s densest state – and one of its most diverse – we must deliver culturally responsive, evidence-based information through both our public health system and community partners. This institute will help us meet New Jerseyans where they are, advancing policies and practices that improve health and quality of life for all of us.”

“I am thrilled to see New Jersey take another key step toward establishing a partnership between the State and a public health institute. In order to provide the best possible health outcomes for our communities, we must work together in lockstep at all levels and bring diverse partners to the table,” **said former Department of Health Commissioner Judith Persichilli**. “The Murphy Administration has long seen the promise of public health institutes to build upon New Jersey’s progress in addressing disparities, supporting innovations in the health care field, and bolstering the public health workforce.”

For over 30 years, public health leaders within and outside government have advanced interest in establishing a public

health institute in New Jersey. The COVID-19 pandemic exemplified the need for collective action to address public health challenges, with the [independent COVID-19 after action report](#) finding the need for health departments to maintain working partnerships with diverse stakeholders, for the public health system to act more nimbly, and for the State to continue investing in health equity. Similarly, the [2022 Seizing the Moment report](#) issued through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found that a nonprofit PHI could play a key part in reimagining and modernizing New Jersey's public health system.

According to the National Network for Public Health Institutes, there are currently 51 public health institutes active nationwide. In New Jersey, the designated PHI will be responsible for:

- coordinating among national, State, and local agencies to promote equitable public health services in New Jersey;
- providing administrative, operational, and fiscal support to public and private health agencies, community-based organizations, and other strategic partners;
- developing and implementing projects, programs, initiatives, or services designed to improve public health outcomes; address racial disparities in public health – including the underlying systemic root causes of health disparities and inequities; and bridge gaps between public and private sector health care and community services;
- promoting, supporting, and funding programs related to workforce development, education, applied research, policy development, and other initiatives that advance the purposes of the Public Health Institute;
- entering into contracts for the purchase of medical countermeasures, supplies, or therapeutics, or other products or service agreements as may be necessary to aid the Department of Health in advancing or protecting public health; and
- engaging in charitable programs dedicated to the purposes and objectives of the Public Health Institute.

Primary sponsors of this legislation ([S-3562/A-4362](#)) include Senators Joseph Vitale and Renee Burgess and Assemblywomen Shanique Speight and Verlina Reynolds-Jackson.

"By enacting this legislation into law, New Jersey is taking a bold step forward in the way we work to protect public health," **said Senator Joseph Vitale**. "The Public Health Institute will streamline coordination among healthcare services and community members, allowing us to combat longstanding disparities more efficiently. The pandemic made it clear—we need a unified, strategic approach to public health, and this institute will play a critical role in making a more equitable and prepared New Jersey."

"Signing this bill into law is an important investment in the health and well-being of all New Jersey residents," **said Senator Renee Burgess**. "The Public Health Institute will facilitate crucial partnerships and deliver focused solutions to eliminate disparities and expand access to care. It's a forward-thinking move toward a more equitable, connected, and resilient public health system focused on people."

"The importance of ensuring equitable health outcomes and managing public health emergencies has become undeniably clear in recent years," **said Assemblywoman Shanique Speight**. "It is why the development of a Public Health Institution is essential. It will enhance our ability to plan and respond to a range of health-related contingencies, while helping us deliver more personalized health services that address the unique needs of communities throughout New Jersey."

"We've seen time and again the need for a strong, coordinated public health system and recognize the enormous benefits that such an entity will bring to our state," **said Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson**. "With this legislation, we're establishing a long-overdue Public Health Institute to address racial health disparities, build a more resilient workforce, and ultimately deliver better outcomes for New Jersey residents."