

55:13C-2.1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2013 **CHAPTER:** 203

NJSA: 55:13C-2.1 (Requires emergency shelters for the homeless to admit persons with mental illness unless they pose danger)

BILL NO: S1888 (Substituted for A2938)

SPONSOR(S) Codey and others

DATE INTRODUCED: May 14, 2012

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Human Services

SENATE: Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** January 13, 2014

SENATE: December 19, 2013

DATE OF APPROVAL: January 17, 2014

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (First reprint enacted)

S1888

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 2 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: Yes

(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 NOTE: No

A2938

SPONSOR'S STATEMENT: (Begins on page 2 of introduced bill) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: No

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

(continued)

VETO MESSAGE: Yes

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: 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

"Christie quietly vetoes 44 bills and signs 100," The Star-Ledger, 1-22-14.

LAW/kr

P.L.2013, CHAPTER 203, *approved January 17, 2014*
Senate, No. 1888 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning emergency shelters for the homeless and
2 supplementing P.L.1985, c.48 (C.55:13C-1 et seq.).
3

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

7 1. ¹**[An]** No person shall be refused admittance to an¹
8 emergency shelter for the homeless ¹**[shall admit a]** based on a
9 perception or belief that the¹ person ¹**[who]**¹ has a mental illness
10 ¹**[and seeks shelter, or food and shelter, at the emergency shelter**
11 **for the homeless]**¹, unless ¹there is a reasonable basis to believe
12 that¹ the person poses a danger to self, others, or property ¹, or if
13 the basis for the refusal is otherwise authorized by law or
14 regulation¹.
15

16 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
17
18
19
20

21 _____
22 Requires emergency shelters for the homeless to admit persons
with mental illness unless they pose danger.

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 amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations November 18, 2013.

SENATE, No. 1888

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 14, 2012

Sponsored by:

Senator RICHARD J. CODEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Senator DIANE B. ALLEN

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblyman JASON O'DONNELL

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

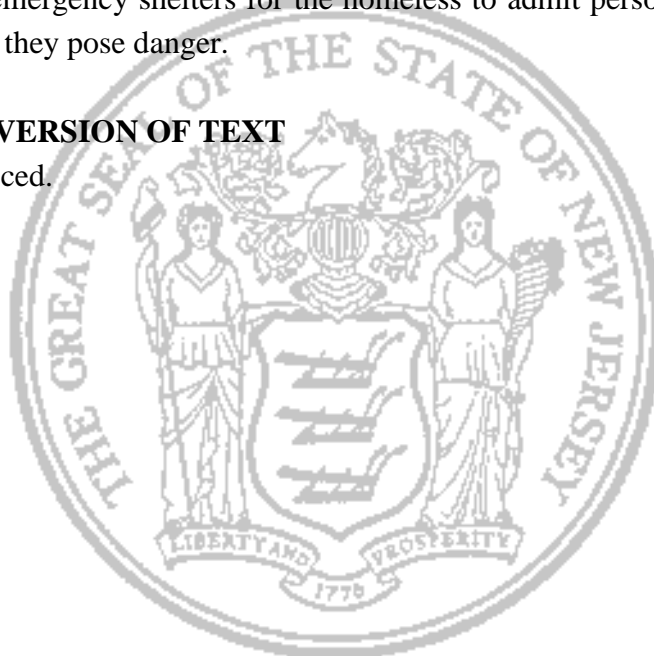
Assemblyman Eustace

SYNOPSIS

Requires emergency shelters for the homeless to admit persons with mental illness unless they pose danger.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2013)

1 AN ACT concerning emergency shelters for the homeless and
2 supplementing P.L.1985, c.48 (C.55:13C-1 et seq.).

3

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

6

7 1. An emergency shelter for the homeless shall admit a person
8 who has a mental illness and seeks shelter, or food and shelter, at
9 the emergency shelter for the homeless, unless the person poses a
10 danger to self, others, or property.

11

12 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

13

14

15

STATEMENT

16

17 This bill concerns the admission of persons with mental illness to
18 emergency shelters for the homeless, and requires the emergency
19 shelters to admit persons with mental illness, unless they pose a
20 danger to self, others, or property.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1888

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 7, 2012

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1888.

As reported, this bill requires that emergency shelters for the homeless admit persons with mental illness, unless they pose a danger to self, others, or property.

ASSEMBLY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1888

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 10, 2013

The Assembly Human Services Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1888.

This bill requires that emergency shelters for the homeless admit persons with mental illness, unless they pose a danger to self, others, or property.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2938 (Jasey/Caputo/O'Donnell), which the committee also reported favorably on this date..

SENATE BILL NO. 1888

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 1888 with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill would require homeless shelters to admit individuals suffering from mental illness unless the person poses a danger to himself, to others, or to property. Ensuring that the mentally ill are not routinely turned away from homeless shelters is sensible and responsible. Protecting the homeless has been an important goal of my Administration, exemplified by the Executive Order I signed last year creating the Interagency Council on Homelessness, which is tasked with developing a ten-year plan to prevent and end homelessness in this State.

I recommend additional improvements to this bill that will further empower shelters to offer broad aid and services to the homeless. As drafted, the bill fails to provide standards for determining whether a person suffers from a mental illness, and lacks criteria for evaluating a person's potential dangerousness. Adding those guidelines will ensure the safety and well-being of shelter residents, and provide appropriate direction to shelter staff faced with delicate and sensitive decisions as part of the daily service they provide to the community. Together, these improvements will help open wider access to temporary housing, and foster shelter settings that provide essential care and comfort for New Jersey's homeless.

I herewith return Senate Bill No. 1888 and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 2, Section 1, Line 7: Delete "An" and insert "No person shall be refused admittance to an"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 7: Delete "shall admit a" and insert "based on a perception or belief that the"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 8: Delete "who"

Page 2, Section 1, Lines 8-9: Delete "and seeks shelter, or food and shelter, at the emergency shelter for the homeless"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 9: After "unless" insert "there is a reasonable basis to believe that"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 10: After "property" insert ", or if the basis for the refusal is otherwise authorized by law or regulation"

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Charles B. McKenna

Chief Counsel to the Governor

ASSEMBLY, No. 2938

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 14, 2012

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO

District 28 (Essex)

Assemblyman JASON O'DONNELL

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Eustace and McKeon

SYNOPSIS

Requires emergency shelters for the homeless to admit persons with mental illness unless they pose danger.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2013)

A2938 JASEY, CAPUTO

2

1 AN ACT concerning emergency shelters for the homeless and
2 supplementing P.L.1985, c.48 (C.55:13C-1 et seq.).

3

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

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7 1. An emergency shelter for the homeless shall admit a person
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9 the emergency shelter for the homeless, unless the person poses a
10 danger to self, others, or property.

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STATEMENT

16

17 This bill concerns the admission of persons with mental illness to
18 emergency shelters for the homeless, and requires the emergency
19 shelters to admit persons with mental illness, unless they pose a
20 danger to self, others, or property.

ASSEMBLY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2938

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 10, 2013

The Assembly Human Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2938.

This bill requires that emergency shelters for the homeless admit persons with mental illness, unless they pose a danger to self, others, or property.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill No.1888 (Codey/Allen), which the committee also reported favorably on this date.