

**26:2-198**  
**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**

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**LAWS OF:** 2019                    **CHAPTER:** 208

**NJSA:** 26:2-198 (Establishes "Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative" in DOH.)

**BILL NO:** S3301                    (Substituted for A4806)

**SPONSOR(S)** Joseph P. Cryan and others

**DATE INTRODUCED:** 1/15/2019

**COMMITTEE:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** ---

**SENATE:** ---

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** Yes

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** 6/20/2019

**SENATE:** 6/20/2019

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** 8/5/2019

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL** (First Reprint enacted) Yes

**S3301**

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

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** No

**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](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** Yes

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** Yes

**A4806**

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

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** Yes    Health & Senior Services  
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](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** Yes

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:**

Yes

**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

"New laws will provide services to gun violence victims,"  
Burlington County Times (Willingboro, NJ) - August 6, 2019

"NJ aims to help victims of gun violence in wake of mass shootings in Dayton and El Paso,"  
northjersey.com (Published as northjersey.com (NJ)) - August 5, 2019

"New Jersey enacts 3 gun violence intervention laws,"  
Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey (NJ) - August 6, 2019

"'This country has to stand up' At signing of anti-violence bills, a call for U.S. to follow the state's lead,"  
The Star-Ledger, (Newark, NJ) - August 6, 2019

"A trio of gun bills now law in N.J.,"  
South Jersey Times (NJ) - August 6, 2019

"New laws put gun violence in crosshairs Laws,"  
Times, The (Trenton, NJ) - August 6, 2019

"TRENTON — Already known for its strict restrictions on guns,"  
Burlington County Times (Willingboro, NJ) - August 6, 2019

RWH/JA

Title 26.  
Chapter 2.  
Article 2.  
Part PP.(New)  
Violence  
Prevention  
§1 - C.26:2-198  
§2 - T&E

P.L. 2019, CHAPTER 208, *approved August 5, 2019*  
Senate, No. 3301 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning violence intervention in hospitals and  
2 supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. <sup>1</sup>As used in this section:

8 “Violence prevention services” means evidence-based, trauma-  
9 informed, supportive, and non-psychotherapeutic services provided  
10 by prevention professionals, as defined by the National Uniform  
11 Claim Committee, for the purpose of promoting improved health  
12 outcomes and positive behavioral change, preventing injury  
13 recidivism, and reducing the likelihood that violently injured  
14 individuals will perpetrate or promote violence themselves. Such  
15 services may be provided within or outside of a clinical setting, and  
16 may include the provision of peer support and counseling,  
17 mentorship, conflict mediation, crisis intervention, targeted case  
18 management, referrals, patient education, or screening services to  
19 victims of interpersonal violence.<sup>1</sup>

20 The Commissioner of Health shall establish the "Hospital-Based  
21 Violence Intervention Program Initiative" in the department. The  
22 commissioner shall develop and <sup>1</sup>**[implement]** provide guidelines  
23 for<sup>1</sup> a comprehensive, coordinated plan to create hospital-based  
24 violence intervention programs, <sup>1</sup>**[in]**<sup>1</sup> which <sup>1</sup>**[people recovering**  
25 from violent injuries are counseled by trained intervention  
26 specialists that offer long-term case management, connection to  
27 community services, mentoring, and follow-up assistance, in order  
28 to substantially reduce the risk of violent re-injury and discourage  
29 the use of retaliatory violence. In addition to any moneys  
30 appropriated by the Legislature, the commissioner may seek money  
31 from the federal government, private foundations, and any other  
32 source to fund this initiative, as well as to fund on-going monitoring  
33 and evaluation of the programs created through this initiative **]**

**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:**

<sup>1</sup>Assembly floor amendments adopted June 20, 2019.

1 provide targeted violence prevention services to individuals who  
2 have been the victim of a firearm or stabbing injury and who are at  
3 elevated risk of violent reinjury or involvement in retaliatory  
4 violence. The Commissioner shall promote coordination of  
5 hospital-based violence intervention programs with other evidence-  
6 based violence reduction initiatives, including those implemented  
7 under the State's Violence Intervention Program, in order to  
8 minimize duplication of services and achieve maximum impact. The  
9 Commissioner shall compile a list of violence prevention best  
10 practices for hospitals to employ. The Commissioner, in  
11 consultation with the Department of Law and Public Safety, shall  
12 collect data and monitor the effectiveness of the "Hospital-Based  
13 Violence Intervention Program Initiative" in reducing violence and  
14 share this information with hospitals<sup>1</sup>.

15

16 <sup>1</sup>2. The Commissioner may seek money from the federal  
17 government, private foundations, and any other source to fund this  
18 initiative, as well as to fund on-going monitoring and evaluation of  
19 the programs created through this initiative.<sup>1</sup>

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21 <sup>1</sup>**[2.] 3.**<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.

22

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24

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26 Establishes "Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program  
27 Initiative" in DOH.

# SENATE, No. 3301

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 15, 2019

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

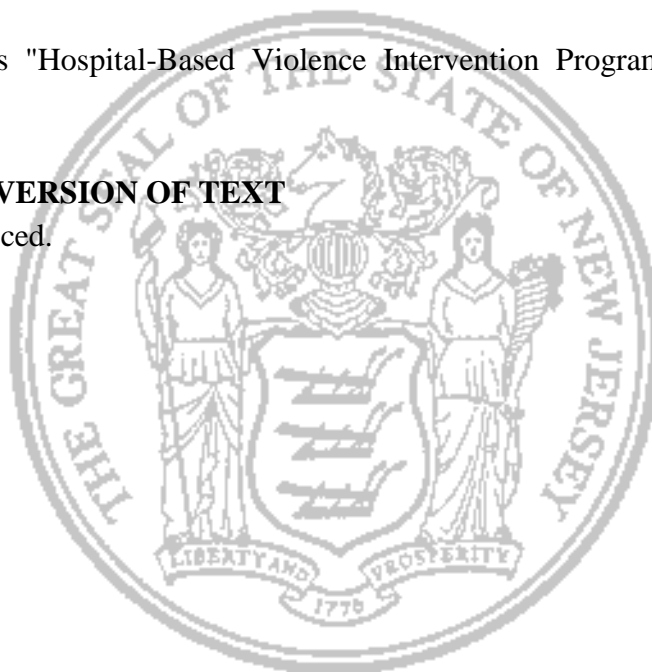
**Assemblyman Johnson, Assemblywomen Pintor Marin, Speight, Murphy,  
Timberlake, Lopez, Vainieri Huttle, McKnight and Jasey**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes "Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative" in DOH.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2019)**

1 AN ACT concerning violence intervention in hospitals and  
2 supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. The Commissioner of Health shall establish the "Hospital-  
8 Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative" in the department.  
9 The commissioner shall develop and implement a comprehensive,  
10 coordinated plan to create hospital-based violence intervention  
11 programs, in which people recovering from violent injuries are  
12 counseled by trained intervention specialists that offer long-term  
13 case management, connection to community services, mentoring,  
14 and follow-up assistance, in order to substantially reduce the risk of  
15 violent re-injury and discourage the use of retaliatory violence. In  
16 addition to any moneys appropriated by the Legislature, the  
17 commissioner may seek money from the federal government,  
18 private foundations, and any other source to fund this initiative, as  
19 well as to fund on-going monitoring and evaluation of the programs  
20 created through this initiative.

21

22 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

26

27 This bill requires the Commissioner of Health to establish the  
28 "Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative." The  
29 commissioner would develop and implement a comprehensive,  
30 coordinated plan to create hospital-based violence intervention  
31 programs, in which people recovering from violent injuries are  
32 counseled by trained intervention specialists that offer long-term  
33 case management, connection to community services, mentoring,  
34 and follow-up assistance, in order to substantially reduce the risk of  
35 violent re-injury and discourage the use of retaliatory violence. The  
36 bill provides that, in addition to any moneys appropriated by the  
37 Legislature, the commissioner may seek money from the federal  
38 government, private foundations, and any other source to fund this  
39 initiative, as well as to fund on-going monitoring and evaluation of  
40 the programs created through this initiative.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3301

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 27, 2019

### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Establishes "Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative" in DOH
- Type of Impact:** Annual increase in State expenditures; General Fund.  
Potential annual increase in Bergen County expenditures.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Health; Department of Law and Public Safety; Bergen New Bridge Medical Center.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Annual</u></b>
<b>State Cost Increase</b>	Indeterminate
<b>Potential Bergen County Cost Increase</b>	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that the Department of Health (DOH) may incur an indeterminate annual increase in expenditures in establishing the Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative. The exercise of the department's discretion, as permitted under the bill; the possibility that the department may receive non-State funding to support the initiative; and the participation rate of hospitals in the initiative will generally determine the State cost of the bill.
- The expenses of the bill may be minimized to the extent that the department utilizes existing resources and data from other evidence-based violence reduction initiatives, as well as existing department staff and resources.
- This fiscal estimate assumes that the University Hospital, an instrumentality of the State, will not incur any costs under the bill because the hospital currently is implementing a hospital-based violence intervention program. If the Bergen New Bridge Medical Center (formerly the Bergen Regional Medical Center), a county-owned entity in Paramus, chooses to participate in the DOH's Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative, the hospital may incur certain annual costs under the bill regarding the implementation of a hospital-based violence intervention program.

## **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill requires the Commissioner of Health to establish the Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative. The commissioner is to develop and provide guidelines for a comprehensive, coordinated plan to create hospital-based violence intervention programs, which provide targeted violence prevention services to individuals who have been the victim of a firearm or stabbing injury and who are at elevated risk of violent reinjury or involvement in retaliatory violence. The commissioner is to promote coordination of hospital-based violence intervention programs with other evidence-based violence reduction initiatives, including those implemented under the State's Violence Intervention Program, in order to minimize duplication of services and achieve maximum impact.

The bill provides that the commissioner may seek money from the federal government, private foundations, and any other source to fund this initiative, as well as to fund on-going monitoring and evaluation of the programs created through this initiative.

The bill requires the commissioner to compile a list of violence prevention best practices for hospitals to employ and, in consultation with the Department of Law and Public Safety, to collect data and monitor the effectiveness of the Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative in reducing violence and share this information with hospitals.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS concludes that the DOH may incur an indeterminate increase in expenditures in establishing the Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative.

While the bill specifies the broad requirements for the initiative, the DOH is given significant discretion as to how it develops and provides guidelines for hospital-based violence intervention programs. The exercise of this discretion, as well as the possibility that the department may receive non-State funding to support the initiative, will generally determine the State cost of the bill. The participation rate of hospitals in the initiative will also impact State cost, specifically those expenses regarding the collection of program data and the monitoring of hospitals to assess the effectiveness of the program. The OLS assumes the higher the participation rate, the larger the costs to collect data and monitor effectiveness.

The cost of the bill may be minimized to the extent that the department utilizes existing resources and data from other evidence-based violence reduction initiatives, such as the National Network of Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs and the University Hospital Violence Intervention Program. The mission of the National Network of Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program is to connect and support hospital-based, community-linked violence intervention and prevention programs and promote trauma-informed care for communities impacted by violence. The Violence Intervention Program at the University Hospital - an independent non-profit legal entity that is an instrumentality of the State located in Newark - was established in July 2017 and is the only hospital-based violence intervention program in the State. It is also possible that the department may minimize expenditures by performing the responsibilities of the bill using existing staff and resources.



This fiscal estimate assumes that the University Hospital, as an instrumentality of the State, will not incur any costs under the bill because the hospital currently is implementing a hospital-based violence intervention program. If the Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, a county-owned entity in Paramus, chooses to participate in the DOH's Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative, the hospital may incur certain costs under the bill regarding the implementation of a hospital-based violence intervention program.

*Section: Human Services*

*Analyst: Sarah Schmidt  
Senior Research Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III  
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.).

**STATEMENT TO**  
**SENATE, No. 3301**

with Assembly Floor Amendments  
(Proposed by Assemblyman GREENWALD)

ADOPTED: JUNE 20, 2019

These floor amendments:

- (1) define “violence prevention services”;
- (2) require the Commissioner of Health (commissioner) to provide, but not implement, guidelines for a comprehensive, coordinated plan to create hospital-based violence intervention programs, which provide targeted violence prevention services to individuals who have been the victim of a firearm or stabbing injury and who are at elevated risk of violent reinjury or involvement in retaliatory violence;
- (3) require the commissioner to promote coordination of hospital-based violence intervention programs with other evidence-based violence reduction initiatives, including those implemented under the State’s Violence Intervention Program, in order to minimize duplication of services and achieve maximum impact;
- (4) remove references to an appropriation;
- (5) require the commissioner to compile a list of violence prevention best practices for hospitals to employ;
- (6) require the commissioner, in consultation with the Department of Law and Public Safety, to collect data and monitor the effectiveness of the “Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative” in reducing violence and share this information with hospitals; and
- (7) permit the commissioner to seek money from the federal government, private foundations, and any other source to fund the initiatives in the bill.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4806

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 10, 2018

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Johnson, Assemblywomen Pintor Marin and Speight**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes "Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative" in DOH.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/8/2019)**

1 AN ACT concerning violence intervention in hospitals and  
2 supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. The Commissioner of Health shall establish the "Hospital-  
8 Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative" in the department.  
9 The commissioner shall develop and implement a comprehensive,  
10 coordinated plan to create hospital-based violence intervention  
11 programs, in which people recovering from violent injuries are  
12 counseled by trained intervention specialists that offer long-term  
13 case management, connection to community services, mentoring,  
14 and follow-up assistance, in order to substantially reduce the risk of  
15 violent re-injury and discourage the use of retaliatory violence. In  
16 addition to any moneys appropriated by the Legislature, the  
17 commissioner may seek money from the federal government,  
18 private foundations, and any other source to fund this initiative, as  
19 well as to fund on-going monitoring and evaluation of the programs  
20 created through this initiative.

21

22 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

23

24

25

#### STATEMENT

26

27 This bill requires the Commissioner of Health to establish the  
28 "Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative." The  
29 commissioner would develop and implement a comprehensive,  
30 coordinated plan to create hospital-based violence intervention  
31 programs, in which people recovering from violent injuries are  
32 counseled by trained intervention specialists that offer long-term  
33 case management, connection to community services, mentoring,  
34 and follow-up assistance, in order to substantially reduce the risk of  
35 violent re-injury and discourage the use of retaliatory violence. The  
36 bill provides that, in addition to any moneys appropriated by the  
37 Legislature, the commissioner may seek money from the federal  
38 government, private foundations, and any other source to fund this  
39 initiative, as well as to fund on-going monitoring and evaluation of  
40 the programs created through this initiative.

# ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY, No. 4806

with committee amendments

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 7, 2019

The Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4806.

As amended, this bill requires the Commissioner of Health (commissioner) to establish the "Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative." The commissioner is to develop and implement a comprehensive, coordinated plan to create hospital-based violence intervention programs, which provide targeted violence prevention services to individuals who have been the victim of a firearm or stabbing injury and who are at elevated risk of violent reinjury or involvement in retaliatory violence. The commissioner is to promote coordination of hospital-based violence intervention programs with other evidence-based violence reduction initiatives, including those implemented under the State's Violence Intervention Program, in order to minimize duplication of services and achieve maximum impact.

The bill provides that the commissioner may seek money from the federal government, private foundations, and any other source to fund this initiative, as well as to fund on-going monitoring and evaluation of the programs created through this initiative.

The bill require the commissioner to compile a list of violence prevention best practices for hospitals to employ, and in consultation with the Department of Law and Public Safety, to collect data and monitor the effectiveness of the "Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative" in reducing violence and share this information with hospitals.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments modify the "Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative" by requiring the provision of violence prevention services, as defined in the bill. The amendments require the commissioner to promote the coordination of hospital-based violence intervention programs. The amendments remove the provision of the bill referencing an appropriation. The amendments require the commissioner to compile a list of violence prevention best practices for hospitals to employ, and in consultation with the Department of Law and Public Safety, to collect data and monitor the effectiveness of the "Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative" in reducing violence and share this information with hospitals.

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

## ASSEMBLY, No. 4806

with committee amendments

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 13, 2019

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4806 (1R).

Assembly Bill No. 4806 (1R) requires the Commissioner of Health (commissioner) to establish the "Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative." The commissioner is to develop and provide guidelines for a comprehensive, coordinated plan to create hospital-based violence intervention programs, which provide targeted violence prevention services to individuals who have been the victim of a firearm or stabbing injury and who are at elevated risk of violent reinjury or involvement in retaliatory violence. The commissioner is to promote coordination of hospital-based violence intervention programs with other evidence-based violence reduction initiatives, including those implemented under the State's Violence Intervention Program, in order to minimize duplication of services and achieve maximum impact.

The bill provides that the commissioner may seek money from the federal government, private foundations, and any other source to fund this initiative, as well as to fund on-going monitoring and evaluation of the programs created through this initiative.

The bill require the commissioner to compile a list of violence prevention best practices for hospitals to employ, and in consultation with the Department of Law and Public Safety, to collect data and monitor the effectiveness of the "Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative" in reducing violence and share this information with hospitals.

### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill so that Commissioner of Health would be required to provide guidelines for a comprehensive, coordinated plan to create hospital-based violence intervention programs, but would not be required to implement it.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services concludes that the Department of Health (DOH) may incur an indeterminate annual increase in

expenditures in establishing the Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative. The exercise of the department's discretion, as permitted under the bill; the possibility that the department may receive non-State funding to support the initiative; and the participation rate of hospitals in the initiative will generally determine the State cost of the bill.

The expenses of the bill may be minimized to the extent that the department utilizes existing resources and data from other evidence-based violence reduction initiatives, as well as existing department staff and resources.

This fiscal estimate assumes that the University Hospital, an instrumentality of the State, will not incur any costs under the bill because the hospital currently is implementing a hospital-based violence intervention program. If the Bergen New Bridge Medical Center (formerly the Bergen Regional Medical Center), a county-owned entity in Paramus, chooses to participate in the DOH's Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative, the hospital may incur certain annual costs under the bill regarding the implementation of a hospital-based violence intervention program.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4806**

## **STATE OF NEW JERSEY 218th LEGISLATURE**

DATED: JUNE 19, 2019

### SUMMARY

- Synopsis:** Establishes "Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative" in DOH
- Type of Impact:** Annual increase in State expenditures; General Fund.  
Potential annual increase in Bergen County expenditures.
- Agencies Affected:** Department of Health; Department of Law and Public Safety; Bergen New Bridge Medical Center.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

<b>Fiscal Impact</b>	<b><u>Annual</u></b>
<b>State Cost Increase</b>	Indeterminate
<b>Potential Bergen County Cost Increase</b>	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that the Department of Health (DOH) may incur an indeterminate annual increase in expenditures in establishing the Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative. The exercise of the department's discretion, as permitted under the bill; the possibility that the department may receive non-State funding to support the initiative; and the participation rate of hospitals in the initiative will generally determine the State cost of the bill.
- The expenses of the bill may be minimized to the extent that the department utilizes existing resources and data from other evidence-based violence reduction initiatives, as well as existing department staff and resources.
- This fiscal estimate assumes that the University Hospital, an instrumentality of the State, will not incur any costs under the bill because the hospital currently is implementing a hospital-based violence intervention program. If the Bergen New Bridge Medical Center (formerly the Bergen Regional Medical Center), a county-owned entity in Paramus, chooses to participate in the DOH's Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative, the hospital may incur certain annual costs under the bill regarding the implementation of a hospital-based violence intervention program.



## **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill requires the Commissioner of Health to establish the Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative. The commissioner is to develop and provide guidelines for a comprehensive, coordinated plan to create hospital-based violence intervention programs, which provide targeted violence prevention services to individuals who have been the victim of a firearm or stabbing injury and who are at elevated risk of violent reinjury or involvement in retaliatory violence. The commissioner is to promote coordination of hospital-based violence intervention programs with other evidence-based violence reduction initiatives, including those implemented under the State's Violence Intervention Program, in order to minimize duplication of services and achieve maximum impact.

The bill provides that the commissioner may seek money from the federal government, private foundations, and any other source to fund this initiative, as well as to fund on-going monitoring and evaluation of the programs created through this initiative.

The bill requires the commissioner to compile a list of violence prevention best practices for hospitals to employ and, in consultation with the Department of Law and Public Safety, to collect data and monitor the effectiveness of the Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative in reducing violence and share this information with hospitals.

## **FISCAL ANALYSIS**

### ***EXECUTIVE BRANCH***

None received.

### ***OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES***

The OLS concludes that the DOH may incur an indeterminate increase in expenditures in establishing the Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative.

While the bill specifies the broad requirements for the initiative, the DOH is given significant discretion as to how it develops and provides guidelines for hospital-based violence intervention programs. The exercise of this discretion, as well as the possibility that the department may receive non-State funding to support the initiative, will generally determine the State cost of the bill. The participation rate of hospitals in the initiative will also impact State cost, specifically those expenses regarding the collection of program data and the monitoring of hospitals to assess the effectiveness of the program. The OLS assumes the higher the participation rate, the larger the costs to collect data and monitor effectiveness.

The cost of the bill may be minimized to the extent that the department utilizes existing resources and data from other evidence-based violence reduction initiatives, such as the National Network of Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs and the University Hospital Violence Intervention Program. The mission of the National Network of Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program is to connect and support hospital-based, community-linked violence intervention and prevention programs and promote trauma-informed care for communities impacted by violence. The Violence Intervention Program at the University Hospital - an independent non-profit legal entity that is an instrumentality of the State located in Newark - was established in July 2017 and is the only hospital-based violence intervention

program in the State. It is also possible that the department may minimize expenditures by performing the responsibilities of the bill using existing staff and resources.

This fiscal estimate assumes that the University Hospital, as an instrumentality of the State, will not incur any costs under the bill because the hospital currently is implementing a hospital-based violence intervention program. If the Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, a county-owned entity in Paramus, chooses to participate in the DOH's Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative, the hospital may incur certain costs under the bill regarding the implementation of a hospital-based violence intervention program.

*Section: Human Services*

*Analyst: Sarah Schmidt  
Senior Research Analyst*

*Approved: Frank W. Haines III  
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.).

# Acting Governor Oliver Signs Gun Violence Intervention Bills

08/05/2019

**TRENTON** – Acting Governor Sheila Oliver today signed a package of gun violence intervention bills that underscore New Jersey’s commitment to combating gun violence. The bills, which are part of Gun Safety Package 2.0, follow a series of comprehensive gun safety laws signed by Governor Phil Murphy in July 2019. The three bills signed today establish community-based non-violence and gun violence prevention programs. Recent domestic terrorist attacks in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio underscore the need for comprehensive, holistic approaches to gun safety in our communities.

“Every day gun violence is tearing our communities apart, especially in underserved communities of color. Governor Murphy and I are determined to stop the violence through intervention programming,” **said Acting Governor Sheila Oliver, who serves as Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs.** “The bills I am signing today will help cut gun violence off at the source through comprehensive hospital-based violence intervention programs (HBIV) that will educate, care for, and protect New Jersey residents to help save lives.”

“We must bring all of our resources to bear on this critical public health issue,” said **New Jersey Department of Health Acting Commissioner Judith M. Persichilli.** “Hospital-based violence intervention programs have been proven to reduce violence, lower societal costs, and protect and assist victims. The Department of Health welcomes these new tools in the fight to reduce gun violence in our state.”

“As public leaders, we have a moral obligation to do something about the gun violence sweeping this country,” **said Attorney General Grewal.** “And in New Jersey, we actually are. So I urge our nation’s leaders to take a page from the New Jersey playbook, which treats the epidemic of gun violence like the public health crisis it is and that focuses on prevention, treatment, and enforcement. The time to do so is now.”

Acting Governor Oliver signed the following three bills into law:

**S3301 (Cryan, Ruiz/Greenwald, Reynolds-Jackson, Benson)** – Establishes “Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program Initiative” in the Department of Health.

**S3312 (Vitale, Codey/Greenwald, Reynolds-Jackson, Benson)** – Requires Level One and Level Two trauma centers to provide hospital-based or hospital-linked violence intervention programs upon available funding.

**S3323 (Cryan, Ruiz/Greenwald, Johnson, Murphy)** – Requires the Victims of Crime Compensation Office victim counseling service to partner with trauma centers to refer certain victims to violence and intervention programs.

“When victims of gunshots arrive to the Emergency Room, the first thing to do is stop the bleeding and dress the wounds,” **said Senator Joseph Vitale.** “But a band-aid does not address the root causes or the mental trauma resulting from such a violent act. This legislation ensures that hospitals that regularly deal with these kinds of emergencies are also equipped with the tools for secondary treatment – counseling and social services – so as to treat the cycle of violence that these violent acts often produce.”

“There are actions we can take to respond to gun violence and other violent acts to prevent the cycle of violence from continuing,” **said Senator Joseph Cryan.** “The hospital intervention programs have proven to be successful in reducing the likelihood of retaliation by victims and preventing them from being victimized again. Getting the Crime Victims Compensation office engaged with the hospital trauma centers that treat crime victims will help prevent them from being victimized again and from engaging in retaliation. The intervention programs that get to victims while they are hospitalized can reach them at a key time with social services, counseling and case management. We want to be resourceful in helping to reduce violence by intervening before it continues.”

“Gun violence is a public health crisis plaguing many communities around the country,” **said Senator M. Teresa Ruiz.** “The trauma associated with it has a lasting impacted on those directly and indirectly touched by it. Through this legislation we can connect individuals with resources before they are discharged, ensuring that not only their physical health is addressed, but also their mental and emotional well-being.”

“We must continue our due diligence of addressing gun violence in New Jersey, and to do so, we must approach it from every angle,” **said Senator Richard Codey.** “By providing the injured access to resources such as counseling, we will be able to curb the staggeringly high injury recidivism rates here in the state.”

“In recent months, we’ve seen more acts of mass gun violence in major U.S. cities, Virginia Beach, and our own state capitol that claim too many lives and leave numerous injured,” **said Assembly Majority Leader Lou Greenwald**. “How do we help prevent these acts from recurring again and again by individuals who believe gun violence or any violence is the answer to a problem? Many who are on the frontlines believe a coordinated effort is the best way to tackle public health problems of mental health and violence. Community and hospital-based prevention services are the key to improving safety in our communities.”

“In Trenton, we understand the impact that gun violence has on a community every day. We see permanent effects of retaliatory behavior and the need to help hospitals close the revolving door of gunshot victims as a result,” **said Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson**. “Getting to survivors before they leave our hospitals is paramount to decreasing violence happening on our streets. Tying hospital-based prevention programs with community programs is the key.”

“Many are unaware they can receive help and where to go to obtain it,” **said Assemblyman Dan Benson**. “We need to be there for them at the moment it happens in order to have a long-term effect on their lives. Connecting hospital-based intervention programs and community-based programs will help put an end to the cycle of violence.”

“Even police officers are debriefed after engaging in fire. This goes a long way in making sure they are mentally able to return to the field,” **said Assemblyman Gordon Johnson**. “Gun violence survivors should have access to this type of mental health care in counseling. Helping one person this way can save many others.”

“Silencing gun violence will require a multi-faceted legislative approach,” said **Assemblywoman Carol Murphy**. “A part of this is bridging the efforts of hospital-based programs and community programs. With these steps, we continue the fight to make our communities safer.”

“I applaud the Giffords Law Center for developing these measures with the Legislature and am extremely pleased that evidence-based strategies will be expanded in New Jersey,” **said Bill Castner, Senior Advisor to the Governor on Gun Safety**. “Governor Murphy and Lt. Governor Oliver are working very hard on an issue Washington is complete neglecting – reducing our plague of gun violence.”

“Gun violence continues to leave families and communities feeling less safe across the country. It’s no different in New Jersey,” **said Nico Bocour, State Legislative Director at Giffords**. “With these bill signings, Governor Phil Murphy and Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver are taking bold, innovative action in response to the gun violence communities face on a daily basis. We thank Assembly Majority Leader Lou Greenwald and Senior Advisor Bill Castner for leading this lifesaving package of bills forward. New Jersey continues to be a leader on gun safety and these substantial reforms to support evidence-based strategies in the Garden State’s most impacted cities will save lives.”

