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**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** Yes

'7 new laws boost protection for sexual assault victims in NJ', Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey (online), 19 Apr 2021

RH/CL

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 62, *approved April 19, 2021*  
Senate, No. 3072

1 AN ACT concerning protocols for sexual assault victims and  
2 supplementing Title 52 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. Upon receiving a report of aggravated sexual assault or  
8 sexual assault as defined in subsection a. or c. of N.J.S.2C:14-2, the  
9 Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, the county prosecutor's office,  
10 or any other law enforcement agency involved in the case shall  
11 make a packet of information available to the victim in electronic or  
12 paper format that includes, but is not limited to:

- 13 a. rights and laws pertaining to victims of sexual assault;  
14 b. the criminal justice process as it pertains to victims of sexual  
15 assault;  
16 c. existing medical, counseling, and mental health services  
17 available to victims of sexual assault;  
18 d. any additional services available to victims of sexual assault  
19 through the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy;  
20 e. a telephone number, established by the county prosecutor's  
21 office involved in the case, that the victim may call at any time for  
22 updates concerning the victim's case; and  
23 f. contact information for the appropriate county Office of  
24 Victim-Witness Advocacy.

25 The victim may elect to waive the right to receive the packet of  
26 information. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, rule,  
27 or regulation to the contrary, the Office of Victim-Witness  
28 Advocacy, the county prosecutor's office, or any other law  
29 enforcement agency involved in the case shall not discuss or  
30 provide information regarding crime prevention strategies with an  
31 alleged victim of aggravated sexual assault or sexual assault.

32  
33 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

34  
35

36 STATEMENT

37

38 This bill requires that certain information be provided to victims  
39 of sexual assault when the victim reports the crime to law  
40 enforcement.

41 Under the bill, upon receiving a report of aggravated sexual  
42 assault or sexual assault, the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy,

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7 assault;
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- 12 • a telephone number that the victim may call at any time to  
13 receive updates on his or her case; and
- 14 • contact information for the appropriate county Office of  
15 Victim-Witness Advocacy.

16 The victim may elect to waive the right to receive the packet of  
17 information. In addition, the bill provides that the Office of Victim-  
18 Witness Advocacy, the county prosecutor's office, or any other law  
19 enforcement agency involved in the case is not to discuss or provide  
20 information regarding crime prevention strategies with an alleged  
21 victim of aggravated sexual assault or sexual assault.

22 It is the sponsor's intent to help victims of sexual assault  
23 navigate the often confusing criminal justice process by ensuring  
24 that the victim is provided with critical information at the outset of  
25 the victim's contact with law enforcement, a time when the victim  
26 may feel most vulnerable and in need of guidance.

27

28

29

30

31 Requires resources be made available to victims of sexual  
32 assault.

# SENATE, No. 3072

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LORETTA WEINBERG**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

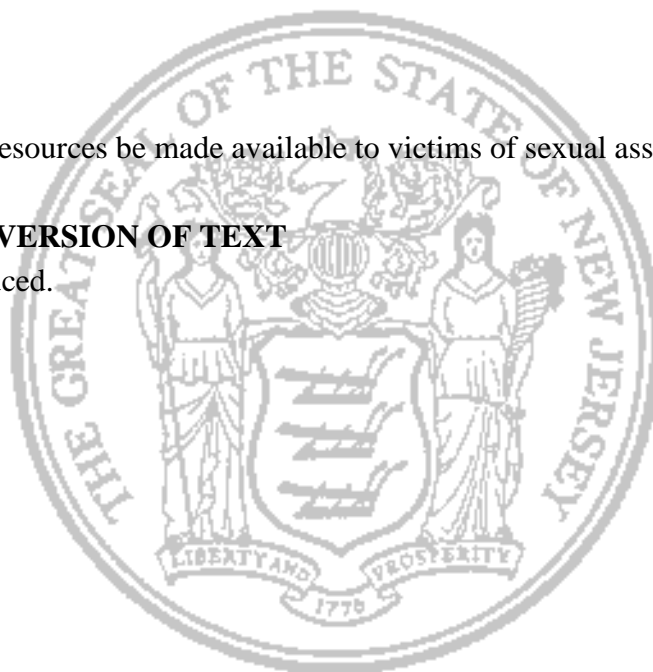
**Senators Pou, Gill, Brown, Ruiz, Assemblymen Giblin, Zwicker, Johnson, Assemblywomen McKnight, Speight, Assemblymen Chiaravalloti, Benson, Holley, McKeon, Tully, Assemblywomen N.Munoz, Jasey, Swain, Schepisi and Timberlake**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires resources be made available to victims of sexual assault.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/1/2021)

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2 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
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15 assault;

16 c. existing medical, counseling, and mental health services  
17 available to victims of sexual assault;

18 d. any additional services available to victims of sexual assault  
19 through the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy;

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21 office involved in the case, that the victim may call at any time for  
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23 f. contact information for the appropriate county Office of  
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25 The victim may elect to waive the right to receive the packet of  
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28 Advocacy, the county prosecutor's office, or any other law  
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**S3072 WEINBERG, CUNNINGHAM**

3

- 1       • rights and laws pertaining to victims of sexual assault;  
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13      information. In addition, the bill provides that the Office of Victim-  
14      Witness Advocacy, the county prosecutor's office, or any other law  
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18      It is the sponsor's intent to help victims of sexual assault  
19      navigate the often confusing criminal justice process by ensuring  
20      that the victim is provided with critical information at the outset of  
21      the victim's contact with law enforcement, a time when the victim  
22      may feel most vulnerable and in need of guidance.

# ASSEMBLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### SENATE, No. 3072

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2021

The Assembly Women and Children Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3072.

This bill requires that certain information be provided to victims of sexual assault when the victim reports the crime to law enforcement.

Under the bill, upon receiving a report of aggravated sexual assault or sexual assault, the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, the county prosecutor's office, or any other law enforcement agency involved in the case is required to make a packet of information available to the victim in electronic or paper format that includes, but is not limited to:

- rights and laws pertaining to victims of sexual assault;
- the criminal justice process as it pertains to victims of sexual assault;
- existing medical, counseling, and mental health services available to victims of sexual assault;
- any additional services available to victims of sexual assault through the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy;
- a telephone number that the victim may call at any time to receive updates on his or her case; and
- contact information for the appropriate county Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy.

Under the bill, the victim may elect to waive the right to receive the packet of information. In addition, the bill provides that the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, the county prosecutor's office, or any other law enforcement agency involved in the case is not to discuss or provide information regarding crime prevention strategies with an alleged victim of aggravated sexual assault or sexual assault.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3072 is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4886 (Vainieri Huttle/Murphy/Reynolds-Jackson), which was reported by the committee on this date.



# SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### SENATE, No. 3072

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 11, 2020

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3072.

As reported by the committee, this bill requires that certain information be provided to victims of sexual assault when the victim reports the crime to law enforcement.

Under the bill, upon receiving a report of aggravated sexual assault or sexual assault, the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, the county prosecutor's office, or any other law enforcement agency involved in the case is required to make a packet of information available to the victim in electronic or paper format that includes, but is not limited to:

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- contact information for the appropriate county Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy.

Under the bill, the victim may elect to waive the right to receive the packet of information. In addition, the bill provides that the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, the county prosecutor's office, or any other law enforcement agency involved in the case is not to discuss or provide information regarding crime prevention strategies with an alleged victim of aggravated sexual assault or sexual assault.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4886

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 26, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

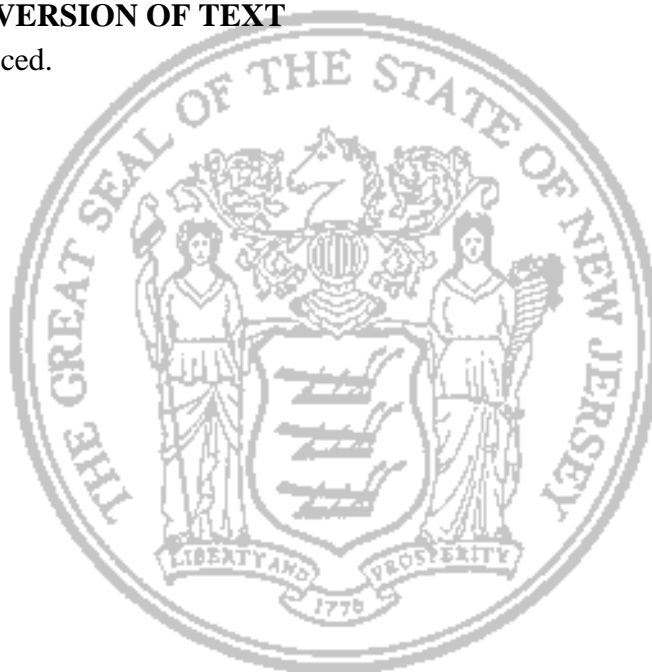
**Assemblymen Giblin, Zwicker, Johnson, Assemblywomen McKnight, Speight, Assemblymen Chiaravalloti, Benson, Holley, McKeon, Tully, Assemblywomen N.Munoz, Jasey, Swain, Schepisi and Timberlake**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires resources be made available to victims of sexual assault.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/1/2021)**

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22 may feel most vulnerable and in need of guidance.

# ASSEMBLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY, No. 4886

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2021

The Assembly Women and Children Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4886.

This bill requires that certain information be provided to victims of sexual assault when the victim reports the crime to law enforcement.

Under the bill, upon receiving a report of aggravated sexual assault or sexual assault, the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, the county prosecutor's office, or any other law enforcement agency involved in the case is required to make a packet of information available to the victim in electronic or paper format that includes, but is not limited to: rights and laws pertaining to victims of sexual assault; the criminal justice process as it pertains to victims of sexual assault; existing medical, counseling, and mental health services available to victims of sexual assault; any additional services available to victims of sexual assault through the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy; a telephone number that the victim may call at any time to receive updates on his or her case; and contact information for the appropriate county Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy.

The victim may elect to waive the right to receive the packet of information. In addition, the bill provides that the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, the county prosecutor's office, or any other law enforcement agency involved in the case is not to discuss or provide information regarding crime prevention strategies with an alleged victim of aggravated sexual assault or sexual assault.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 4886 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3072 (Weinberg/Cunningham), which was reported by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on December 10, 2020.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 4886 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3072 which was also reported by the committee on this date.

# Governor Murphy Signs Bills Strengthening How Law Enforcement Agencies in New Jersey Manage Sexual Assault Cases

04/19/2021

**TRENTON** – Governor Phil Murphy today signed a series of bills strengthening how law enforcement agencies handle sexual assault cases. These bills direct law enforcement agencies to allocate additional resources to sexual assault cases, increase training for prosecutors on how to manage these cases, and change reporting structures to ensure that survivors are properly notified about their cases. As part of this package of bills, Attorney General Gurbir Grewal will also be tasked with publishing an annual report detailing the scope of sexual assault incidents statewide.

"It is imperative that we take steps to make sure that survivors in New Jersey know they can seek justice," **said Governor Murphy**. "Giving our law enforcement agencies clear directives and guidance on how to manage sexual assault cases will ensure that these cases are handled with survivors in mind. These long-overdue reforms will change how survivors interact with law enforcement agencies and provide additional information on the scope of these incidents. I am proud to sign these bills into law."

Previously, Governor Murphy signed the Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights, legislation to protect survivors, and legislation to create a new commission on campus sexual assault. Attorney General Grewal also issued a directive to law enforcement in 2018 that created fourteen protocols prioritizing the needs and concerns of sexual assault victims in New Jersey and ensuring that victims are treated with respect and understanding by law enforcement in the days, weeks, and months after reporting an assault. Many of today's actions codify and expand on that 2018 directive.

Governor Murphy today signed the following legislation:

- **S3070/A4884** (Weinberg, Turner/Vainieri Huttle, McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson) Establishes "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program."
- **S3071/4885** (Weinberg, Ruiz/Vainieri Huttle, Lopez, Reynolds-Jackson) Requires law enforcement provide victim of sexual assault with initial incident report; provides victim with option to review initial incident report and submit corrective form.
- **S3072/A4886** – (Weinberg, Cunningham/Vainieri Huttle, Murphy, Reynolds-Jackson) Requires resources be made available to victims of sexual assault.
- **S3073/A4887** – (Weinberg, Corrado/Vainieri Huttle, Jasey, Timberlake) Establishes right of victims to be notified of county prosecutor's charging decision in sexual assault cases.
- **S3074/A4888** – (Weinberg, Greenstein/Vainieri Huttle, Lopez) Requires the Office of the Attorney General to issue an annual report concerning sexual assault cases.
- **S3075/A4889** – (Weinberg, Pou/Vainieri Huttle, Quijano, Speight) Establishes sexual violence liaison officer in Division of State Police and local police departments.
- **S3076/A4890** – (Weinberg, Gill/Vainieri Huttle, McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson) Requires sexual assault training for prosecutors.

"This legislation codifies and in some instances expands upon the important steps our office has taken in the last several years to improve the way law enforcement officers and prosecutors engage with victims of sexual assault, with the goal of ensuring that survivors' cases are handled in accordance with best practices by police and prosecutors," **said Attorney General Grewal**. "With the signing of these bills into

law, New Jersey stands as a model for improving survivor-focused case management and law enforcement training and reporting, so we can achieve justice while treating survivors of sex crimes with the respect and compassion they deserve."

"Today, New Jersey adds to its portfolio of survivor-centered, trauma-informed laws and transforms how our state responds to the needs of survivors of sexual violence," **said Patricia Teffenhart, Executive Director of the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA)**. "The signing of today's package of bills is a direct reflection of what kind of change is possible when we collectively center the lived experiences of survivors to inform necessary policy and practice reforms. NJCASA is thankful for the survivors, advocates, bill sponsors, and Governor Murphy who made this possible."

ent Demonstration Program."

[Copy of Statement](#)

April 19, 2021

**SENATE BILL NO.2725**  
**(First Reprint)**

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2725 (First Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill would make various changes to the assessment and appeals process in 1) counties operating under the Real Property Assessment Demonstration Program ("Demonstration Program"), currently, only Monmouth County; 2) counties operating under the Property Tax Assessment Reform Act ("Reform Act"), limited in statute to Gloucester County; and 3) counties that have adopted the alternative real property assessment calendar establishment pursuant to the Demonstration Program, currently, only Burlington County.

Among other changes, the bill would amend P.L.2017, c.306 to add a definition of what constitutes a "good-faith attempt to physically inspect" the interior of properties located in counties participating in the Demonstration Program and the Reform Act and add any county who has adopted the alternative assessment calendar to the list of counties subject to the requirements of the law. Under the bill, a county participating in a Demonstration Program would be permitted to conduct an interior inspection virtually, using smartphone technology and protocols adopted by the county board of taxation, at the discretion of the taxpayer. This virtual inspection option would be available for all assessment-related functions conducted in a Demonstration Program county.

With respect to appeals of property tax assessments, the bill provides that taxpayers in a Demonstration Program county are not entitled to appeal an assessment if the taxpayer has refused an assessor's request to internally inspect the property. In addition, the bill specifies that the so-called "Chapter 123 ratio"



shall not apply to taxpayer appeals in a Demonstration Program county in any tax year in which a municipal-wide reassessment or other form of district-wide assessment review occurs. The Chapter 123 ratio eliminates the burden of demonstrating that property was assessed at greater than true value and of proving the common level of assessment for all properties in the municipality.

I applaud the bill's sponsors for attempting to further clarify and streamline the tax assessment functions in those counties that have chosen to participate in the Demonstration Program or the Reform Act. These laws were enacted with the intent of modeling more cost-effective and accurate real property assessment administration. As participating counties' experiences reveal additional opportunities for streamlining and standardizing the assessment function, it is important that statutes keep pace.

While I support the reform measures contemplated in this bill, I am concerned that the bill may inappropriately single out participating counties in a manner that could create unconstitutional disparities among taxpayers based on where they live. The uniformity clause of the New Jersey Constitution requires all property to be assessed for taxation under "general laws," by "uniform rules" and "according to the same standard of value." N.J. Const. Art. 8, Sec. 1, par. 1. By mandating the automatic dismissal of an appeal whenever a taxpayer refuses a virtual inspection only in the case of those taxpayers located in a Demonstration Program county, the bill denies these taxpayers a right to relief that is available to other taxpayers. The same is true for the bill's provision narrowing applicability of the Chapter 123 ratio to exclude certain appeals in a Demonstration Program county, while leaving it in place for appeals taking place in other counties under identical circumstances.

To avoid this outcome, I am recommending revisions to apply the important reform measures proposed in the bill to all counties, or, where appropriate, to all municipalities implementing annual reassessments or compliance plans. This will ensure that the rules are uniform throughout the State while also enabling all counties and taxpayers to benefit from the bill's efficiencies.

Accordingly, I herewith return Senate Bill No. 2725 (First Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

<u>Page 2, Title, Lines 1-2:</u>	Delete "in certain counties"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 20:</u>	Delete "eighth"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 22:</u>	Delete "eight-year"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 38:</u>	Delete "However,"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Lines 39-43:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 3, Section 1, Lines 1-9:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 3, Section 1, Line 10:</u>	Delete "In the case of a municipality located in a county wherein the" and insert "Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, in any municipality implementing a revaluation program approved by the Director of the Division of Taxation pursuant to P.L.1971, c.424 (C. 54:1-35.35 et seq.), district-wide reassessment program, compliance plan, or other form of municipal-wide assessment review that requires the revision of all property assessments to current market value, that is approved by the county board of taxation"
<u>Page 3, Section 1, Lines 11-12:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 3, Section 1, Line 13:</u>	Delete "Demonstration Program," P.L.2013, c.15 (C.54:1-104),"
<u>Page 6, Section 3, Line 26:</u>	After "seq.)" insert ", district-wide reassessment program, compliance plan, or other form of municipal-wide assessment review that requires the revision of all

property assessments to current market value, that is approved by the county board of taxation pursuant to R.S.54:4-23"

- Page 6, Section 3, Lines 27-39: Delete in their entirety
- Page 6, Section 3, Line 40: Delete "Demonstration Program," P.L.2013, c.15 (C.54:1-104), at" and insert "g. At"
- Page 7, Section 3, Lines 3-5: Delete in their entirety
- Page 7, Section 3, Line 6: Delete "Demonstration Program," P.L.2013, c.15 (C.54:1-104), at" and insert "h. At"
- Page 7, Section 3, Lines 9-10: Delete "the county's online appeal system, and"
- Page 7, Section 3, Line 11: After "taxation." insert "The county board of taxation may relax the requirement of the time of the taxpayer's appeal as the needs of justice allow."
- Page 7, Section 4, Line 36: Delete "or a" and insert "district-wide reassessment program, compliance plan, or other form of municipal-wide assessment review that requires the revision of all property assessments to current market value, that is approved by the county board of taxation pursuant to R.S.54:4-23."
- Page 7, Section 4, Lines 37-47: Delete in their entirety

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor