24:6I-5.1 and 24:6I-10 LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2021 CHAPTER: 118 NJSA: 24:6I-5.1 and 24:6I-10 (Permits use of telemedicine and telehealth to authorize patients for medical cannabis and to issue written instructions for dispensing medical cannabis.) **BILL NO:** S619 (Substituted for A1635 (1R)) SPONSOR(S) O'Scanlon, Declan J. and others DATE INTRODUCED: 1/14/2020 ASSEMBLY: **COMMITTEE:** Health Health, Human Services & Senior Citizens SENATE: AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: 6/21/2021 SENATE: 6/21/2021 **DATE OF APPROVAL:** 6/24/2021 **FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:** FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Third Reprint enacted) Yes S619 **INTRODUCED BILL (INCLUDES SPONSOR'S STATEMENT):** 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 ESTIMATE:** No A1635 (1R) **INTRODUCED BILL (INCLUDES SPONSOR'S STATEMENT):** Yes **COMMITTEE STATEMENT:** ASSEMBLY: Yes 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:** Nο

Yes

VETO MESSAGE:

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:	Yes
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RH/CL

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 118, approved June 24, 2021 Senate, No. 619 (Third Reprint)

1 **AN ACT** concerning medical cannabis and amending P.L.2019, c.153 and P.L.2009, c.307.

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

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- 1. Section 5 of P.L.2019, c.153 (C.24:6I-5.1) is amended to read as follows:
- 5. a. A health care practitioner shall not be required to be listed publicly in any medical cannabis practitioner registry as a condition of authorizing patients for the medical use of cannabis.
 - b. No authorization for the medical use of cannabis may be issued by a health care practitioner to the practitioner's own self or to a member of the practitioner's immediate family.
 - c. The commission shall establish a process to allow medical cannabis to be dispensed to a patient who has been authorized for the medical use of cannabis and who has initiated the process of registering with the commission pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-4), but whose registration has not been completed or subject to other final action by the commission. A patient may be dispensed medical cannabis in quantities of up to a two-week supply during the pendency of the patient's registration, after which time the patient may be dispensed medical cannabis in an amount consistent with the requirements of section 10 of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-10). The commission shall impose such restrictions on access to medical cannabis pursuant to this subsection as shall be necessary to protect against fraud, abuse, and diversion.
- d. ³[For ¹a period of ¹ 270 days following the ¹effective ¹ date 28 of lanctment of lanctment of land P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the 29 Legislature as this bill), a health care practitioner may authorize a 30 patient who is a ¹[child,] ¹ resident of a long-term care facility, 31 ¹[developmentally disabled] has a developmental disability¹, ¹is¹ 32 terminally ill, ¹is ¹ receiving hospice care ¹through a licensed 33 hospice care provider¹, or ¹is¹ housebound as certified by the 34 patient's physician, for the medical use of cannabis ¹ [in the course 35 of the health care practitioner's practice of using telemedicine or 36 ¹[Following the 270 day period after the date of 37 enactment of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature 38 as this bill) Thereafter, a health care practitioner may initially 39 authorize any patient for the medical use of cannabis ¹[in the 40 course of the health care practitioner's practice of using using 41 42 telemedicine or telehealth, provided that, and except in the case of a

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 January 27, 2020.

²Assembly AHE committee amendments adopted March 5, 2020. ³Senate amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's

recommendations June 3, 2021.

patient who is a ¹[child, developmentally disabled] resident of a 1 long-term care facility, has a developmental disability¹, 2 ¹is ¹terminally ill, ¹is ¹ receiving hospice care ¹from a licensed 3 4 hospice care provider¹, or ¹is¹ housebound ¹as certified by the 5 patient's physician¹, the patient has had at least one previous inoffice ¹[visit] consultation ¹ with the health care practitioner prior 6 7 to the ¹[patient's authorization] practitioner authorizing the patient for the medical use of cannabis using telemedicine or 8 telehealth¹. ²Following the initial authorization, the patient shall 9 10 have at least one in-office consultation with the practitioner on an 11 annual basis in order for the patient to receive continued 12 authorization for the use of medical cannabis. The practitioner may require more frequent in-office consultations if additional 13 14 consultations are necessary to continue to authorize the patient's use of medical cannabis.²] A health care practitioner may initially 15 16 authorize any qualifying patient for the medical use of cannabis 17 using telemedicine or telehealth, provided that the use of 18 telemedicine or telehealth, rather than an in-person visit, is 19 consistent with the standard of care required for assessment and 20 treatment of the patient's condition. Following the initial 21 authorization, the practitioner may provide continued authorization 22 for the use of medical cannabis via telemedicine or telehealth if the 23 practitioner determines that an in-person visit is not required, 24 consistent with the standard of care. The practitioner may require 25 in-office consultations if additional consultations are necessary to 26 continue to authorize the patient's use of medical cannabis.³ 27

As used in this subsection, "telehealth" and "telemedicine" shall have the same meaning as is provided in section 1 of P.L.2017, c.117 (C.45:1-61).

(cf: P.L.2019, c.153, s.5)

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> 2. Section 10 of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-10) is amended to read as follows:

10. a. A health care practitioner shall provide written instructions for a registered qualifying patient or the patient's designated caregiver, or an institutional caregiver acting on behalf of the patient, to present to a medical cannabis dispensary or a clinical registrant concerning the total amount of usable cannabis that a patient may be dispensed, in weight, in a 30-day period, which amount shall not exceed the maximum amount that may be

authorized for the patient pursuant to subsection f. of this section.

b. A health care practitioner may issue multiple written instructions at one time authorizing the patient to receive a total of up to a one-year supply, provided that the following conditions are (1) Each separate set of instructions shall be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by the health care practitioner, as provided in P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-1 et al.);

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- (2) Each separate set of instructions shall indicate the earliest date on which a dispensary or clinical registrant may dispense the cannabis, except for the first dispensation if it is to be filled immediately; and
- (3) The health care practitioner has determined that providing the patient with multiple instructions in this manner does not create an undue risk of diversion or abuse.
- A registered qualifying patient or the patient's designated caregiver, or an institutional caregiver acting on behalf of a qualifying patient, shall present verification of the patient's or caregiver's registration with the commission, as applicable, and these written instructions to any medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant at the time the patient or caregiver requests the dispensing or delivery of medical cannabis, which medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant shall verify and log the documentation presented. An institutional caregiver shall additionally present an authorization executed by the patient certifying that the institutional caregiver is authorized to obtain medical cannabis on behalf of the patient. A health care practitioner may provide a copy of a written instruction by electronic or other means, including 1,1 but not limited to, telemedicine and telehealth, as determined by the commission, directly to a medical cannabis dispensary or a clinical registrant on behalf of a registered qualifying patient. The dispensation of medical cannabis pursuant to any written instructions shall occur within one year of the date that the instructions were written or become eligible for dispensing, whichever is later, or the instructions are void.
 - d. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2019, c.153)
- e. Prior to dispensing medical cannabis to a qualifying patient, the patient's designated caregiver, or an institutional caregiver, the medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant shall access the system established pursuant to section 11 of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.45:1-45.1) to ascertain whether medical cannabis was dispensed to or on behalf of the patient by any medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant within the preceding 30 days. Upon dispensing medical cannabis to a qualifying patient, the patient's designated caregiver, or an institutional caregiver, the medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant shall transmit to the patient's health care practitioner information concerning the amount, strain, and form of medical cannabis that was dispensed.
- f. (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, for a period of 18 months after the effective date of P.L.2019, c.153 (C.24:6I-5.1 et al.), the maximum amount of usable cannabis that a patient may be dispensed, in weight, in a 30-day period, shall

be three ounces. Commencing 18 months after the effective date of P.L.2019, c.153 (C.24:6I-5.1 et al.), the maximum amount of usable cannabis that a patient may be dispensed shall be prescribed by the commission by regulation.

- (2) The monthly limits set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply to patients who are terminally ill or who are currently receiving hospice care through a licensed hospice, which patients may be dispensed an unlimited amount of medical cannabis. Qualifying patients who are not receiving hospice care or who are not terminally ill may petition the commission, on a form and in a manner as the commission shall require by regulation, for an exemption from the monthly limits set forth in paragraph (1) of this paragraph, which petition the commission shall approve if the commission finds that granting the exemption is necessary to meet the patient's treatment needs and is consistent with the provisions of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-1 et al.).
- g. The commission shall establish, by regulation, curricula for health care practitioners and for staff at medical cannabis dispensaries and clinical registrants:
- (1) The curriculum for health care practitioners shall be designed to assist practitioners in counseling patients with regard to the quantity, dosing, and administration of medical cannabis as shall be appropriate to treat the patient's qualifying medical condition. Health care practitioners shall complete the curriculum as a condition of authorizing patients for the medical use of cannabis; and
- (2) The curriculum for employees of medical cannabis dispensaries and clinical registrants shall be designed to assist the employees in counseling patients with regard to determining the strain and form of medical cannabis that is appropriate to treat the patient's qualifying medical condition. Employees of medical cannabis dispensaries and clinical registrants shall be required to complete the curriculum as a condition of registration with the commission. Completion of the curriculum may constitute part of the annual training required pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection j. of section 7 of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-7).
- h. Commencing July 1, 2020, the amount of the sales tax that may be imposed under the "Sales and Use Tax Act," P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-1 et seq.) on medical cannabis dispensed by a medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant shall not exceed four percent.
- Commencing July 1, 2021, the amount of the sales tax that may be imposed under the "Sales and Use Tax Act," P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-1 et seq.) on medical cannabis dispensed by a medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant shall not exceed two percent.
- Commencing July 1, 2022, medical cannabis dispensed by a medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant shall not be

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subject to any tax imposed under the "Sales and Use Tax Act,"
P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-1 et seq.).

Any revenue collected pursuant to a tax imposed on the sale of medical cannabis under the "Sales and Use Tax Act," P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-1 et seq.), shall be exclusively appropriated to programs for the treatment of mental health and substance use disorders.

i. A municipality in which a medical cannabis dispensary is located may adopt an ordinance imposing a transfer tax on any medical cannabis dispensed by the dispensary, including medical cannabis that is furnished by the dispensary to a medical cannabis handler for delivery to a registered qualifying patient or the patient's caregiver. The rate of a transfer tax established pursuant to this subsection shall be at the discretion of the municipality, except that in no case shall the rate exceed two percent of the purchase price of the medical cannabis.

17 (cf: P.L.2019, c.153, s.18)

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Permits use of telemedicine and telehealth to authorize patients for medical cannabis and to issue written instructions for dispensing medical cannabis.

SENATE, No. 619

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by: Senator DECLAN J. O'SCANLON, JR. District 13 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Permits authorization for dispensation of medical marijuana through telemedicine and telehealth under certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



AN ACT concerning medical cannabis and amending P.L.2019, c.153 and P.L.2009, c.307.

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

- 1. Section 5 of P.L.2019, c.153 (C.24:6I-5.1) is amended to read as follows:
- 5. a. A health care practitioner shall not be required to be listed publicly in any medical cannabis practitioner registry as a condition of authorizing patients for the medical use of cannabis.
- b. No authorization for the medical use of cannabis may be issued by a health care practitioner to the practitioner's own self or to a member of the practitioner's immediate family.
- c. The commission shall establish a process to allow medical cannabis to be dispensed to a patient who has been authorized for the medical use of cannabis and who has initiated the process of registering with the commission pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-4), but whose registration has not been completed or subject to other final action by the commission. A patient may be dispensed medical cannabis in quantities of up to a two-week supply during the pendency of the patient's registration, after which time the patient may be dispensed medical cannabis in an amount consistent with the requirements of section 10 of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-10). The commission shall impose such restrictions on access to medical cannabis pursuant to this subsection as shall be necessary to protect against fraud, abuse, and diversion.
- d. For 270 days following the date of enactment of P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a health care practitioner may authorize a patient who is a child, resident of a long-term care facility, developmentally disabled, terminally ill, receiving hospice care, or housebound as certified by the patient's physician, for the medical use of cannabis in the course of the health care practitioner's practice of telemedicine or telehealth. Following the 270 day period after the date of enactment of P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a health care practitioner may authorize any patient for the medical use of cannabis in the course of the health care practitioner's practice of telemedicine or telehealth, provided that, and except in the case of a patient who is a child, developmentally disabled, terminally ill, receiving hospice care, or housebound, the patient has had at least one previous in-office visit with the health care practitioner prior to

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

the patient's authorization for the medical use of cannabis.

As used in this subsection, "telehealth" and "telemedicine" shall 1 2 have the same meaning as is provided in section 1 of P.L.2017, 3 c.117 (C.45:1-61).

4 (cf: P.L.2019, c.153, s.5)

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- 2. Section 10 of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-10) is amended to 6 read as follows:
 - 10. a. A health care practitioner shall provide written instructions for a registered qualifying patient or the patient's designated caregiver, or an institutional caregiver acting on behalf of the patient, to present to a medical cannabis dispensary or a clinical registrant concerning the total amount of usable cannabis that a patient may be dispensed, in weight, in a 30-day period, which amount shall not exceed the maximum amount that may be authorized for the patient pursuant to subsection f. of this section.
 - b. A health care practitioner may issue multiple written instructions at one time authorizing the patient to receive a total of up to a one-year supply, provided that the following conditions are met:
 - (1) Each separate set of instructions shall be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by the health care practitioner, as provided in P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-1 et al.);
 - (2) Each separate set of instructions shall indicate the earliest date on which a dispensary or clinical registrant may dispense the cannabis, except for the first dispensation if it is to be filled immediately; and
 - (3) The health care practitioner has determined that providing the patient with multiple instructions in this manner does not create an undue risk of diversion or abuse.
 - c. A registered qualifying patient or the patient's designated caregiver, or an institutional caregiver acting on behalf of a qualifying patient, shall present verification of the patient's or caregiver's registration with the commission, as applicable, and these written instructions to any medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant at the time the patient or caregiver requests the dispensing or delivery of medical cannabis, which medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant shall verify and log the documentation presented. An institutional caregiver shall additionally present an authorization executed by the patient certifying that the institutional caregiver is authorized to obtain medical cannabis on behalf of the patient. A health care practitioner may provide a copy of a written instruction by electronic or other means, including but not limited to, telemedicine and telehealth, as determined by the commission, directly to a medical cannabis dispensary or a clinical registrant on behalf of a registered qualifying patient. The dispensation of medical cannabis pursuant to any written instructions shall occur within one year of

the date that the instructions were written or become eligible for dispensing, whichever is later, or the instructions are void.

d. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2019, c.153)

- e. Prior to dispensing medical cannabis to a qualifying patient, the patient's designated caregiver, or an institutional caregiver, the medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant shall access the system established pursuant to section 11 of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.45:1-45.1) to ascertain whether medical cannabis was dispensed to or on behalf of the patient by any medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant within the preceding 30 days. Upon dispensing medical cannabis to a qualifying patient, the patient's designated caregiver, or an institutional caregiver, the medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant shall transmit to the patient's health care practitioner information concerning the amount, strain, and form of medical cannabis that was dispensed.
 - f. (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, for a period of 18 months after the effective date of P.L.2019, c.153 (C.24:6I-5.1 et al.), the maximum amount of usable cannabis that a patient may be dispensed, in weight, in a 30-day period, shall be three ounces. Commencing 18 months after the effective date of P.L.2019, c.153 (C.24:6I-5.1 et al.), the maximum amount of usable cannabis that a patient may be dispensed shall be prescribed by the commission by regulation.
- (2) The monthly limits set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply to patients who are terminally ill or who are currently receiving hospice care through a licensed hospice, which patients may be dispensed an unlimited amount of medical cannabis. Qualifying patients who are not receiving hospice care or who are not terminally ill may petition the commission, on a form and in a manner as the commission shall require by regulation, for an exemption from the monthly limits set forth in paragraph (1) of this paragraph, which petition the commission shall approve if the commission finds that granting the exemption is necessary to meet the patient's treatment needs and is consistent with the provisions of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-1 et al.).
- g. The commission shall establish, by regulation, curricula for health care practitioners and for staff at medical cannabis dispensaries and clinical registrants:
- (1) The curriculum for health care practitioners shall be designed to assist practitioners in counseling patients with regard to the quantity, dosing, and administration of medical cannabis as shall be appropriate to treat the patient's qualifying medical condition. Health care practitioners shall complete the curriculum as a condition of authorizing patients for the medical use of cannabis; and
- (2) The curriculum for employees of medical cannabis dispensaries and clinical registrants shall be designed to assist the employees in counseling patients with regard to determining the

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strain and form of medical cannabis that is appropriate to treat the patient's qualifying medical condition. Employees of medical cannabis dispensaries and clinical registrants shall be required to complete the curriculum as a condition of registration with the commission. Completion of the curriculum may constitute part of the annual training required pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection j. of section 7 of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-7).

h. Commencing July 1, 2020, the amount of the sales tax that may be imposed under the "Sales and Use Tax Act," P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-1 et seq.) on medical cannabis dispensed by a medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant shall not exceed four percent.

Commencing July 1, 2021, the amount of the sales tax that may be imposed under the "Sales and Use Tax Act," P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-1 et seq.) on medical cannabis dispensed by a medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant shall not exceed two percent.

Commencing July 1, 2022, medical cannabis dispensed by a medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant shall not be subject to any tax imposed under the "Sales and Use Tax Act," P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-1 et seq.).

Any revenue collected pursuant to a tax imposed on the sale of medical cannabis under the "Sales and Use Tax Act," P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-1 et seq.), shall be exclusively appropriated to programs for the treatment of mental health and substance use disorders.

i. A municipality in which a medical cannabis dispensary is located may adopt an ordinance imposing a transfer tax on any medical cannabis dispensed by the dispensary, including medical cannabis that is furnished by the dispensary to a medical cannabis handler for delivery to a registered qualifying patient or the patient's caregiver. The rate of a transfer tax established pursuant to this subsection shall be at the discretion of the municipality, except that in no case shall the rate exceed two percent of the purchase price of the medical cannabis.

(cf: P.L.2019, c.153, s.18)

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill permits patients to be authorized for medical cannabis through telemedicine and telehealth and under certain circumstances.

Under the bill, for 270 days following the date of the bill's enactment, a health care practitioner may authorize a patient who is a child, resident of a long-term care facility, developmentally

1 disabled, terminally ill, receiving hospice care, or housebound as 2 certified by the patient's physician, for the medical use of cannabis 3 using telemedicine and telehealth. Thereafter, a health care 4 practitioner may authorize any patient for the medical use of 5 cannabis using telemedicine and telehealth, provided that, except in 6 the case of a patient who is a child, developmentally disabled, 7 terminally ill, receiving hospice care, or housebound, the patient has 8 had at least one previous in-office visit with the health care 9 practitioner prior to the patient's authorization for the medical use 10 of cannabis. The bill additionally allows written instructions for 11 medical cannabis to be provided to or on behalf of a patient using 12 telemedicine and telehealth.

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Under current statutes, "telehealth" means the use of information and communications technologies, including telephones, remote patient monitoring devices, or other electronic means, to support clinical health care, provider consultation, patient and professional health-related education, public health, health administration, and other services in accordance with the provisions of P.L.2017, c.117 (C.45:1-61 et al.). "Telemedicine" means the delivery of a health care service using electronic communications, information technology, or other electronic or technological means to bridge the gap between a health care provider who is located at a distant site and a patient who is located at an originating site, either with or without the assistance of an intervening health care provider, and in accordance with the provisions of P.L.2017, c.117 (C.45:1-61 et al.). "Telemedicine" does not include the use, in isolation, of audioonly telephone conversation, electronic mail, instant messaging, phone text, or facsimile transmission.

ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint] **SENATE, No. 619**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 5, 2020

The Assembly Health Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 619 (1R).

As amended by the committee, this bill permits patients to be authorized for medical cannabis and to have written instructions for medical cannabis issued to the patient using telemedicine and telehealth.

Specifically, for a period of 270 days following the effective date of the bill, a health care practitioner may authorize a patient who is a resident of a long-term care facility, has a developmental disability, is terminally ill, is receiving hospice care from a licensed hospice care provider, or is housebound as certified by the patient's physician, for the medical use of cannabis using telemedicine and telehealth. Thereafter, a health care practitioner may initially authorize any patient for the medical use of cannabis using telemedicine and telehealth, provided that, except in the case of a patient who is a resident of a long-term care facility, has a developmental disability, is terminally ill, is receiving hospice care from a licensed hospice care provider, or is housebound as certified by the patient's physician, the patient has had at least one previous in-office consultation with the health care practitioner prior to the patient's authorization for the medical use of cannabis.

Following the initial authorization, the patient is to have at least one in-office consultation with the practitioner on an annual basis in order for the patient to receive continued authorization for the use of medical cannabis. The practitioner may require more frequent in-office consultations if additional consultations are necessary to continue to authorize the patient's use of medical cannabis. The bill additionally allows written instructions for medical cannabis to be provided to or on behalf of a patient using telemedicine and telehealth.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 619 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1635 which was reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments provide that following the initial authorization, the patient is to have at least one in-office consultation

with the practitioner on an annual basis in order for the patient to receive continued authorization for the use of medical cannabis. The practitioner may require more frequent in-office consultations if additional consultations are necessary to continue to authorize the patient's use of medical cannabis.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 619

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 27, 2020

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 619.

As amended by the committee, this bill permits patients to be authorized for medical cannabis and to have written instructions for medical cannabis issued to the patient using telemedicine and telehealth.

Specifically, for a period of 270 days following the effective date of the bill, a health care practitioner may authorize a patient who is a resident of a long-term care facility, has a developmental disability, is terminally ill, is receiving hospice care from a licensed hospice care provider, or is housebound as certified by the patient's physician, for the medical use of cannabis using telemedicine and telehealth. Thereafter, a health care practitioner may authorize any patient for the medical use of cannabis using telemedicine and telehealth, provided that, except in the case of a patient who is a resident of a long-term care facility, has a developmental disability, is terminally ill, is receiving hospice care from a licensed hospice care provider, or is housebound as certified by the patient's physician, the patient has had at least one previous in-office consultation with the health care practitioner prior to the patient's authorization for the medical use of cannabis. The bill additionally allows written instructions for medical cannabis to be provided to or on behalf of a patient using telemedicine and telehealth.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2020-2021 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments revise the list of patients who can be approved for medical cannabis using telemedicine and telehealth in the first 270 days after the effective date of the bill to remove children from the list. The amendments also revise the list of patients who can be approved for medical cannabis using telemedicine and telehealth

after the initial 270-day period without the requirement for an initial in-person consultation to remove children, add residents of long-term care facilities, and clarify that patients who are housebound require certification of that condition by their physicians. The amendments further revise both lists to clarify that they apply to hospice patients who are receiving services from a licensed hospice care program.

The committee amendments make various technical changes involving grammar and syntax.

The committee amendments make a technical change to the synopsis to update it to reflect the terminology used under current law and to more fully reflect the scope of the bill.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1635

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT District 6 (Burlington and Camden) Assemblywoman JOANN DOWNEY District 11 (Monmouth)

SYNOPSIS

Permits authorization for dispensation of medical marijuana through telemedicine and telehealth under certain circumstances.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



AN ACT concerning medical cannabis and amending P.L.2019, c.153 and P.L.2009, c.307.

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

- 1. Section 5 of P.L.2019, c.153 (C.24:6I-5.1) is amended to read as follows:
- 5. a. A health care practitioner shall not be required to be listed publicly in any medical cannabis practitioner registry as a condition of authorizing patients for the medical use of cannabis.
- b. No authorization for the medical use of cannabis may be issued by a health care practitioner to the practitioner's own self or to a member of the practitioner's immediate family.
- c. The commission shall establish a process to allow medical cannabis to be dispensed to a patient who has been authorized for the medical use of cannabis and who has initiated the process of registering with the commission pursuant to section 4 of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-4), but whose registration has not been completed or subject to other final action by the commission. A patient may be dispensed medical cannabis in quantities of up to a two-week supply during the pendency of the patient's registration, after which time the patient may be dispensed medical cannabis in an amount consistent with the requirements of section 10 of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-10). The commission shall impose such restrictions on access to medical cannabis pursuant to this subsection as shall be necessary to protect against fraud, abuse, and diversion.
- d. For 270 days following the date of enactment of P.L.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a health care practitioner may authorize a patient who is a child, resident of a long-term care facility, developmentally disabled, terminally ill, receiving hospice care, or housebound as certified by the patient's physician, for the medical use of cannabis in the course of the health care practitioner's practice of telemedicine or telehealth. Following the 270 day period after the date of enactment of P.L. ,) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), a health care practitioner may authorize any patient for the medical use of cannabis in the course of the health care practitioner's practice of telemedicine or telehealth, provided that, and except in the case of a patient who is a child, developmentally disabled, terminally ill, receiving hospice care, or housebound, the patient has had at least one previous in-office visit with the health care practitioner prior to the patient's authorization for the medical use of cannabis.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

As used in this subsection, "telehealth" and "telemedicine" shall

have the same meaning as is provided in section 1 of P.L.2017, c.117 (C.45:1-61).

3 (cf: P.L.2019, c.153, s.5)

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- 5 2. Section 10 of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-10) is amended to 6 read as follows:
 - 10. a. A health care practitioner shall provide written instructions for a registered qualifying patient or the patient's designated caregiver, or an institutional caregiver acting on behalf of the patient, to present to a medical cannabis dispensary or a clinical registrant concerning the total amount of usable cannabis that a patient may be dispensed, in weight, in a 30-day period, which amount shall not exceed the maximum amount that may be authorized for the patient pursuant to subsection f. of this section.
 - b. A health care practitioner may issue multiple written instructions at one time authorizing the patient to receive a total of up to a one-year supply, provided that the following conditions are met:
 - (1) Each separate set of instructions shall be issued for a legitimate medical purpose by the health care practitioner, as provided in P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-1 et al.);
 - (2) Each separate set of instructions shall indicate the earliest date on which a dispensary or clinical registrant may dispense the cannabis, except for the first dispensation if it is to be filled immediately; and
 - (3) The health care practitioner has determined that providing the patient with multiple instructions in this manner does not create an undue risk of diversion or abuse.
 - c. A registered qualifying patient or the patient's designated caregiver, or an institutional caregiver acting on behalf of a qualifying patient, shall present verification of the patient's or caregiver's registration with the commission, as applicable, and these written instructions to any medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant at the time the patient or caregiver requests the dispensing or delivery of medical cannabis, which medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant shall verify and log the documentation presented. An institutional caregiver shall additionally present an authorization executed by the patient certifying that the institutional caregiver is authorized to obtain A health care medical cannabis on behalf of the patient. practitioner may provide a copy of a written instruction by electronic or other means, including but not limited to, telemedicine and telehealth, as determined by the commission, directly to a medical cannabis dispensary or a clinical registrant on behalf of a registered qualifying patient. The dispensation of medical cannabis pursuant to any written instructions shall occur within one year of the date that the instructions were written or become eligible for dispensing, whichever is later, or the instructions are void.

d. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.2019, c.153)

- Prior to dispensing medical cannabis to a qualifying patient, the patient's designated caregiver, or an institutional caregiver, the medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant shall access the system established pursuant to section 11 of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.45:1-45.1) to ascertain whether medical cannabis was dispensed to or on behalf of the patient by any medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant within the preceding 30 days. Upon dispensing medical cannabis to a qualifying patient, the patient's designated caregiver, or an institutional caregiver, the medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant shall transmit to the patient's health care practitioner information concerning the amount, strain, and form of medical cannabis that was dispensed.
 - f. (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, for a period of 18 months after the effective date of P.L.2019, c.153 (C.24:6I-5.1 et al.), the maximum amount of usable cannabis that a patient may be dispensed, in weight, in a 30-day period, shall be three ounces. Commencing 18 months after the effective date of P.L.2019, c.153 (C.24:6I-5.1 et al.), the maximum amount of usable cannabis that a patient may be dispensed shall be prescribed by the commission by regulation.
 - (2) The monthly limits set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply to patients who are terminally ill or who are currently receiving hospice care through a licensed hospice, which patients may be dispensed an unlimited amount of medical cannabis. Qualifying patients who are not receiving hospice care or who are not terminally ill may petition the commission, on a form and in a manner as the commission shall require by regulation, for an exemption from the monthly limits set forth in paragraph (1) of this paragraph, which petition the commission shall approve if the commission finds that granting the exemption is necessary to meet the patient's treatment needs and is consistent with the provisions of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-1 et al.).
 - g. The commission shall establish, by regulation, curricula for health care practitioners and for staff at medical cannabis dispensaries and clinical registrants:
 - (1) The curriculum for health care practitioners shall be designed to assist practitioners in counseling patients with regard to the quantity, dosing, and administration of medical cannabis as shall be appropriate to treat the patient's qualifying medical condition. Health care practitioners shall complete the curriculum as a condition of authorizing patients for the medical use of cannabis; and
 - (2) The curriculum for employees of medical cannabis dispensaries and clinical registrants shall be designed to assist the employees in counseling patients with regard to determining the strain and form of medical cannabis that is appropriate to treat the patient's qualifying medical condition. Employees of medical

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cannabis dispensaries and clinical registrants shall be required to 1 2 complete the curriculum as a condition of registration with the 3 commission. Completion of the curriculum may constitute part of 4 the annual training required pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection 5 j. of section 7 of P.L.2009, c.307 (C.24:6I-7).

h. Commencing July 1, 2020, the amount of the sales tax that may be imposed under the "Sales and Use Tax Act," P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-1 et seq.) on medical cannabis dispensed by a medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant shall not exceed four percent.

Commencing July 1, 2021, the amount of the sales tax that may be imposed under the "Sales and Use Tax Act," P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-1 et seq.) on medical cannabis dispensed by a medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant shall not exceed two percent.

Commencing July 1, 2022, medical cannabis dispensed by a medical cannabis dispensary or clinical registrant shall not be subject to any tax imposed under the "Sales and Use Tax Act," P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-1 et seq.).

Any revenue collected pursuant to a tax imposed on the sale of medical cannabis under the "Sales and Use Tax Act," P.L.1966, c.30 (C.54:32B-1 et seq.), shall be exclusively appropriated to programs for the treatment of mental health and substance use disorders.

i. A municipality in which a medical cannabis dispensary is located may adopt an ordinance imposing a transfer tax on any medical cannabis dispensed by the dispensary, including medical cannabis that is furnished by the dispensary to a medical cannabis handler for delivery to a registered qualifying patient or the patient's caregiver. The rate of a transfer tax established pursuant to this subsection shall be at the discretion of the municipality, except that in no case shall the rate exceed two percent of the purchase price of the medical cannabis.

(cf: P.L.2019, c.153, s.18)

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This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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41 This bill permits patients to be authorized for medical cannabis 42 through telemedicine and telehealth and under certain 43 circumstances.

Under the bill, for 270 days following the date of the bill's enactment, a health care practitioner may authorize a patient who is a child, resident of a long-term care facility, developmentally disabled, terminally ill, receiving hospice care, or housebound as certified by the patient's physician, for the medical use of cannabis

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using telemedicine and telehealth. Thereafter, a health care 1 2 practitioner may authorize any patient for the medical use of 3 cannabis using telemedicine and telehealth, provided that, except in 4 the case of a patient who is a child, developmentally disabled, 5 terminally ill, receiving hospice care, or housebound, the patient has 6 had at least one previous in-office visit with the health care 7 practitioner prior to the patient's authorization for the medical use 8 of cannabis. The bill additionally allows written instructions for 9 medical cannabis to be provided to or on behalf of a patient using 10 telemedicine and telehealth.

Under current statutes, "telehealth" means the use of information 11 12 and communications technologies, including telephones, remote 13 patient monitoring devices, or other electronic means, to support 14 clinical health care, provider consultation, patient and professional 15 health-related education, public health, health administration, and 16 other services in accordance with the provisions of P.L.2017, c.117 17 (C.45:1-61 et al.). "Telemedicine" means the delivery of a health 18 care service using electronic communications, information 19 technology, or other electronic or technological means to bridge the 20 gap between a health care provider who is located at a distant site 21 and a patient who is located at an originating site, either with or 22 without the assistance of an intervening health care provider, and in 23 accordance with the provisions of P.L.2017, c.117 (C.45:1-61 et 24 al.). "Telemedicine" does not include the use, in isolation, of audio-25 only telephone conversation, electronic mail, instant messaging, 26 phone text, or facsimile transmission.

ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1635

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 5, 2020

The Assembly Health Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments to Assembly Bill No. 1635.

As amended by the committee, this bill permits patients to be authorized for medical cannabis and to have written instructions for medical cannabis issued to the patient using telemedicine and telehealth.

Specifically, for a period of 270 days following the effective date of the bill, a health care practitioner may authorize a patient who is a resident of a long-term care facility, has a developmental disability, is terminally ill, is receiving hospice care from a licensed hospice care provider, or is housebound as certified by the patient's physician, for the medical use of cannabis using telemedicine and telehealth. Thereafter, a health care practitioner may initially authorize any patient for the medical use of cannabis using telemedicine and telehealth, provided that, except in the case of a patient who is a resident of a long-term care facility, has a developmental disability, is terminally ill, is receiving hospice care from a licensed hospice care provider, or is housebound as certified by the patient's physician, the patient has had at least one previous in-office consultation with the health care practitioner prior to the patient's authorization for the medical use of cannabis.

Following the initial authorization, the patient is to have at least one in-office consultation with the practitioner on an annual basis in order for the patient to receive continued authorization for the use of medical cannabis. The practitioner may require more frequent in-office consultations if additional consultations are necessary to continue to authorize the patient's use of medical cannabis. The bill additionally allows written instructions for medical cannabis to be provided to or on behalf of a patient using telemedicine and telehealth.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2020-2021 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 1635 is identical to Senate Bill No. 619 (1R) which was reported by the committee on this date.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments revise the list of patients who can be approved for medical cannabis using telemedicine and telehealth in the first 270 days after the effective date of the bill to remove children from the list. The amendments also revise the list of patients who can be approved for medical cannabis using telemedicine and telehealth after the initial 270-day period without the requirement for an initial in-person consultation to remove children, add residents of long-term care facilities, and clarify that patients who are housebound require certification of that condition by their physicians. The amendments further revise both lists to clarify that they apply to hospice patients who are receiving services from a licensed hospice care program.

The amendments provide that following the initial authorization, the patient is to have at least one in-office consultation with the practitioner on an annual basis in order for the patient to receive continued authorization for the use of medical cannabis. The practitioner may require more frequent in-office consultations if additional consultations are necessary to continue to authorize the patient's use of medical cannabis.

The committee amendments make a technical change to the synopsis and make various technical changes involving grammar and syntax.

Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

04/19/2021

TRENTON - Today, Governor Phil Murphy signed the following bills and resolutions into law: **SJR-93/AJR-180** (**Lagana, Cunningham, Pou/Wimberly, Reynolds-Jackson, Quijano**) Designates February 14 of each year as Frederick Douglass Day in NJ.

S-275/A-2142 (Kean, Cruz-Perez/Tully, Swain, Dancer) Provides resident tuition rate to certain non-resident dependent children of United States military personnel attending public institutions of higher education.

S-551/A-1057 (Codey, Bucco/Jasey, McKeon, Dunn) Permits appointment of nonresident municipal emergency management coordinators in municipalities with populations under 5,000 persons in certain circumstances.

S-699/A-5245 (Ruiz, Singleton/Sumter, Reynolds-Jackson, Stanley) Requires training for DOE arbitrators to include issues related to cultural diversity and bias.

S-1017/A-2562 (Gopal, Lagana/DeAngelo, Dancer, Chaparro) Provides retirement allowance after 20 years of service regardless of age for current members of PFRS who retire within two years.

S-1851/A-4407 (Ruiz, Cryan/Jasey, Moriarty) Eliminates eligibility of postsecondary students and other individuals for State student assistance, training, and employment services if school or training provider requires student to consent to arbitration agreement or proceeding or to waive certain rights.

S-2323/A-3869 (Gopal, Bucco/Armato, Vainieri Huttle, Verrelli) Requires opioid antidote prescriptions for certain patients.

S-2476/A-3998 (Singleton, Addiego/Murphy, Giblin, Verrelli) Concerns certain workers' compensation supplemental benefits for surviving dependents of essential employees who die in course of employment.

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S-2831/A-4783 (Ruiz, Beach/Quijano, Lampitt, Jasey) Requires DOE to establish Alternate Route Interstate Reciprocity Pilot Program

S-2973/A-4895 (Beach/Armato) Creates office of deputy superintendent of elections in counties of fifth class.

S-3004/A-4947 (Sarlo, Pou/Johnson, Wirths, Reynolds-Jackson) Establishes retroactive date for provisions of P.L.2018, c.165, which clarifies provisions of "Predatory Towing Prevention Act."

Governor Murphy vetoed the following bills:

S-347/A-1992 (Smith, Vitale/Stanley, Conaway, Houghtaling) - CONDITIONAL - Establishes "NJ One Health Task Force."

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S-619/A-1635 (O'Scanlon/Lampitt, Downey) - CONDITIONAL - Permits use of telemedicine and telehealth to authorize patients for medical cannabis and to issue written instructions for dispensing medical cannabis.

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S-2725/A-4473 (Gopal/Houghtaling, Downey) - CONDITIONAL - Concerns assessment of real property in counties operating under "Real Property Assessment Demonstration Program."

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SENATE BILL NO. 619 (Second Reprint)

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 619 (Second Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill permits, for a period of 270 days following the bill's enactment, vulnerable patients, including patients with a developmental disability, patients residing in long-term care facilities, and patients receiving hospice care to receive authorization or continued authorization via telehealth and telemedicine for the use of medical cannabis. Thereafter, the bill permits all other patients to receive continued authorization via telehealth and telemedicine for the use of medical cannabis, provided that the patient has had at least one previous in-office consultation with a health care practitioner prior to the patient's initial authorization and the patient continues to have at least one in-office consultation on an annual basis for as long as the authorization continues.

To minimize exposure to Coronavirus disease 2019 ("COVID-19"), and under the authority of P.L.2020, c.3, which authorized the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs ("Director") to waive any requirement of State law or regulation that may be necessary to facilitate the provision of health care services using telemedicine and telehealth during the Public Health Emergency declared in response to COVID-19, the Director issued Administrative Order 2020-15 on August 11, 2020. The Administrative Order permits a physician issuing a certification for the use of medical cannabis to utilize a telemedicine encounter to satisfy the prescribing requirements, provided it is consistent with the standard of care and that certain other conditions are satisfied. Administrative Order 2020-15 took effect immediately

and remains in place through the end of the Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency declared in Executive Order No. 103 (2020), or the end of the telemedicine allowance designated by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, whichever occurs first.

I commend the bill's sponsors for working to facilitate access to medical cannabis for those who need it and I agree that telehealth authorization should continue even after the emergencies in response to COVID-19 are lifted. I am concerned, however, that the bill places undue limitations on the use of telehealth in this context that are overly restrictive and unnecessary for patient safety. For example, the bill would immediately, and for a period of nine months, disqualify many patients who have been successfully utilizing telehealth and telemedicine services in accordance with the authorization provided by the Director's Administrative Order. These patients would subsequently be required to submit to mandatory in-person office visits when their eligibility resumes. I do not agree with resurrecting old barriers to access, particularly as the pandemic continues.

I am therefore recommending revisions that will mirror the broad telehealth and telemedicine authorization granted in the Administrative Order. My amendments will authorize telehealth and telemedicine for all patients, provided it is otherwise consistent with the standard of care. Importantly, my revisions allow practitioners to require in-person visits either as part of the initial consultation or the continued authorization, when the practitioner determines an in-person visit is necessary for a particular patient.

Accordingly, I herewith return Senate Bill No. 619 (Second Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 2, Section 1, Line 28:

Delete "For a period of 270 days following the effective date of" and insert "A health practitioner care initially authorize any qualifying patient for the medical use of cannabis using telemedicine or telehealth, provided that the use of telemedicine or telehealth, rather than an in-person is consistent with visit, standard of care ed for assessment the required for and treatment of the patient's condition. Following the initial authorization, practitioner may provide continued authorization for the use of medical cannabis via telemedicine or telehealth if the practitioner determines that an in-person visit is not required, consistent with the standard of care. The practitioner may in-office consultations additional consultations necessary to continue are necessary authorize the patient's use of medical cannabis."

Page 2, Section 1, Lines 29-44:

Page 3, Section 1, Lines 1-11:

[seal]

Delete in their entirety

Delete in their entirety

Respectfully,

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor

Governor Murphy Takes Action On Legislation

06/24/2021

TRENTON – Today, Governor Phil Murphy signed the following bills into law:

A-2116/S-2009 w/GR (Tully, Swain, Armato/Lagana) Requires State Treasurer to submit report to Legislature every six months identifying deadlines for applications for federal funds by State agencies.

A-4745/S3277 (Armato, Chaparro, Danielsen/Bucco, Singleton, Doherty) Raises from 45 to 57 maximum eligibility age for exempt fireman certificates and membership in New Jersey State Fireman's Association.

A-5590/S-3819 (Mazzeo, Armato, Greenwald/Sweeney, Beach) Extends period of municipal stabilization and recovery, with certain modifications, under "Municipal Stabilization and Recovery Act."

S-347/A-1992 w/GR (Smith, Vitale/Stanley, Conaway, Houghtaling) Establishes "NJ One Health Task Force."

S-619/A1635 w/GR (O'Scanlon/Lampitt, Downey) Permits use of telemedicine and telehealth to authorize patients for medical cannabis and to issue written instructions for dispensing medical cannabis. *

S-853/A-5064 w/GR (Sweeney, Beach/Verrelli, Giblin, Danielsen) "New Jersey Buy American Act"; requires certain State agency highway and bridge construction contracts to include iron and steel products made in U.S.

S-890/A-1061 w/GR (Pou, Codey/Jasey, Johnson, Verrelli) Requires DOH and DHS to identify and take appropriate steps to secure federal sources of funding to support maternal mental health.

S-3686/A-5540 (Sweeney/ Burzichelli, Freiman) Supplements Department of Transportation language provisions in FY 2021 Appropriations Act to provide flexibility for debt service payments.

Governor Murphy conditionally vetoed the following bill:

S-2682/A-4016 (Gopal, Kean/Dancer, Benson, Verrelli) – CONDITIONAL - Establishes the New Jersey Rare Disease Advisory Council.

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Governor Murphy will deliver the following conditional veto to the Senate on Monday, June 28:

S-3658/A-5641 (Cunningham, Scutari/ Chiaravalloti, Mukherji, Carter) – CONDITIONAL - Eliminates mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment determined by Legislature to be of non-violent nature.

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