#### 10:7-1 & 10:7-2; 26:2S-39; 52:14-17.29hh et al LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2021 CHAPTER: 375 NJSA: 10:7-1 & 10:7-2; 26:2S-39; 52:14-17.29hh et al (Codifies constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice.) **BILL NO:** S49 (Substituted for A6260) Weinberg, Loretta and others SPONSOR(S) DATE INTRODUCED: 1/6/2022 **COMMITTEE:** ASSEMBLY: SENATE: Health, Human Services & Senior Citizens AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: 1/10/2022 SENATE: 1/10/2022 DATE OF APPROVAL: 1/13/2022 **FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:** FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Introduced bill enacted) Yes **S49 INTRODUCED BILL (INCLUDES SPONSOR'S STATEMENT):** Yes **COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY:** No 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:** Yes A6260 **INTRODUCED BILL (INCLUDES SPONSOR'S STATEMENT):** Yes **COMMITTEE STATEMENT:** 

**ASSEMBLY:** 

SENATE:

Yes

No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings	, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, <i>may</i>
possibly be found at 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 Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 c	
REPORTS:	No
HEARINGS:	No
NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:	Yes

Charles Stile, NorthJersey.com, 'Abortion law enshrines New Jersey as pro-choice — and politically complicated |Stile', northjersey.com (online), 11 Jan 2022

Dustin Racioppi, Trenton Bureau, 'SUPPORT FOR CHOICE - NJ BILL PROTECTING ABORTION RIGHTS PASSES, BUTSOME SAY IT DOESN'T GO FAR ENOUGH', Record, The (online), 11 Jan 2022 L1

Title 10. Chapter 7. (New) Freedom of Reproductive Choice §§1,2 C.10:7-1 and 10:7-2 §3 C.26:2S-39 §4 C.52:14-17.29hh §5 C.52:14-17.46.6q

#### (CORRECTED COPY)

#### P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 375, approved January 13, 2022 Senate, No. 49

1 AN ACT concerning freedom of reproductive choice and 2 supplementing Title 10 of the Revised Statutes, P.L.1997, c.192 3 (C.26:2S-1 et seq.), and Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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States Constitution.

- 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
- 9 In cases such as Right to Choose v. Byrne, 91 N.J. 287 (1982) and Planned Parenthood of Cent. N.J. v. Farmer, 165 N.J. 609 (2000), 10 11 the New Jersey Supreme Court has recognized that the right to 12 reproductive choice is a fundamental right enshrined in the State 13 Constitution, that this right is independent of the United States 14 Constitution, and that Article I, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey 15 Constitution is independent of, and protects reproductive autonomy 16 to an extent that exceeds the protections established under, the United
  - b. The New Jersey Supreme Court has found that the right to reproductive choice includes the right to determine whether and when to bear children. In particular, the citizens of New Jersey may: access contraception, including emergency contraception; may not be denied public benefits based on the choice to have additional children; may choose to terminate a pregnancy; and may choose to carry a pregnancy to term.
  - Self-determination in reproductive choice is key to helping establish equality among the genders and to allowing all people of childbearing age to participate equally in the economic and social life of the United States and the State of New Jersey.
- d. An unplanned pregnancy can disrupt educational and career 30 plans, forcing the pregnant person to drop out of school, abandon pursuit of a college or advanced degree, accept lower-paying

employment or employment with limited opportunities for advancement, or delay entrance into the workforce, which can have the effect of limiting the person's lifetime earnings and can prevent the person from following a chosen career path.

- e. The right to choose whether and when to have children allows people to more effectively plan in a way that is compatible with the person's overall life goals. Although each person retains the right to exercise the freedom of reproductive choice regardless of the health and strength of the person's interpersonal relationships, where and how the person lives, or the person's income level and overall resources, the essence of the right to reproductive choice is that people have the ability to make reproductive choices in a manner commensurate with their own personal beliefs, life plan, and moral code.
- f. Governmental restrictions on reproductive choice, by their very nature, impinge on the constitutional right to reproductive autonomy, particularly when they fail to confer any benefits to patients in the form of improved health or safety. Moreover, restrictions of this nature often have a disparate impact that is predominantly felt by persons who already experience barriers to health care access, including young people, people of color, people with disabilities, people with low income, people living in rural areas, immigrants, and people who are transgender or non-binary.
- g. The Legislature is committed to ensuring that no barriers to reproductive freedom exist in the State. Individuals have the right to make their own decisions concerning reproduction, including the right to contraception, the right to terminate a pregnancy, and the right to carry a pregnancy to term, without government interference or fear of prosecution.
- h. It is both reasonable and necessary for the State to enable, facilitate, support, and safeguard the provision of high-quality, comprehensive reproductive and sexual health care, including the full range of evidence-based information, counseling, and health care services, to all individuals in the State, and to enable, facilitate, support, and safeguard the ability of such individuals to access affordable and timely reproductive health care services and to engage in autonomous reproductive decision-making, in consultation with health care professionals of their choosing, without fear of prosecution, discrimination, or unnecessary barriers to care. To achieve those ends, it shall be the policy of this State to:
- (1) explicitly guarantee, to every individual, the fundamental right to reproductive autonomy, which includes the right to contraception, the right to terminate a pregnancy, and the right to carry a pregnancy to term;
- (2) enable all qualified health care professionals to provide pregnancy termination services in the State;
- (3) advance comprehensive insurance coverage for reproductive care, including primary reproductive health care services, services to

terminate a pregnancy, long-acting contraceptives, and long-term supplies of hormonal contraceptives, that enables the citizens of New Jersey to fully exercise their freedom of reproductive choice while recognizing the rights of certain religious employers to request an exemption from such coverage; and

(4) ensure that all laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, resolutions, policies, standards, or parts thereof, that are currently in force or enacted in the future, conform to the provisions and the express or implied purposes of this act, and that any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, resolution, policy, standard, or part thereof that conflicts with the provisions of this act or its express or implied purposes is subject to invalidation.

- 2. a. Every individual present in the State, including, but not limited to, an individual who is under State control or supervision, shall have the fundamental right to: choose or refuse contraception or sterilization; and choose whether to carry a pregnancy, to give birth, or to terminate a pregnancy. The New Jersey Constitution recognizes the fundamental nature of the right to reproductive choice, including the right to access contraception, to terminate a pregnancy, and to carry a pregnancy to term, shall not be abridged by any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or order issued by any State, county, or local governmental authority. Any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or order, in effect on or adopted after the effective date of this act, that is determined to have the effect of limiting the constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice and that does not conform with the provisions and the express or implied purposes of this act, shall be deemed invalid and shall have no force or effect.
- b. The provisions of this section shall be enforceable under the "New Jersey Civil Rights Act," P.L.2004, c.143 (C.10:6-1 et seq.) or in any other manner provided by law.

Upon concluding a study and issuing a report to the Governor and the Legislature demonstrating that such a regulation is necessary, the Department of Banking and Insurance may, through regulation adopted pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act", P.L.1968 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), provide that health benefit plans delivered, issued, executed, or renewed in this State, provide coverage for abortion. If the department provides for coverage pursuant to this section, then the department shall also require carriers to grant, upon request of a religious employer, an exclusion under the contract for the coverage required if the required coverage conflicts with the religious employer's bona fide religious beliefs and practices. A religious employer that obtains such an exclusion shall provide written notice thereof to covered persons and prospective covered persons, and the carrier shall provide notice to the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance in such form and manner as may be determined by the commissioner. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be construed as authorizing a carrier to exclude coverage for care that is necessary to preserve the life or health of a subscriber. An exclusion from an insurance coverage mandate granted to a religious employer pursuant to this section shall not be considered a violation of section 2 of P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

b. For the purposes of this section, "religious employer" means an organization that is organized and operates as a nonprofit entity and is referred to in section 6033(a)(3)(A)(i) or (iii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. s.6033), as amended.

4. A contract-providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the State Health Benefits Commission may provide coverage for abortion. A contract-providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the commission shall not exclude a provider from its network or otherwise restrict services from the provider solely on the basis that the provider is a religious employer, as defined in section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), that refuses to provide abortion services.

5. A contract-providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the School Employees' Health Benefits Commission may provide coverage for abortion. A contract-providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the commission shall not exclude a provider from its network or otherwise restrict services from the provider solely on the basis that the provider is a religious employer, as defined in section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), that refuses to provide abortion services.

6. This act shall take effect immediately.

#### **STATEMENT**

This bill establishes certain requirements related to the right to reproductive choice in New Jersey.

Specifically, the bill codifies the constitutional right, which has been recognized by the New Jersey Supreme Court, to freedom of reproductive choice, including the right to access contraception, to terminate a pregnancy, and to carry a pregnancy to term. Any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or order that has the effect of abridging the constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice, including a law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or order in effect on, or adopted after, the effective date of the bill, will be deemed invalid and will have no force or effect. The bill specifically provides that every individual present in the State, including, but not limited to, an individual who is under State control or supervision, has the

fundamental right to choose or refuse contraception or sterilization; and to choose whether to carry a pregnancy, to give birth, or to terminate a pregnancy.

The bill additionally provides that, after concluding a study and issuing a report to the Governor and the Legislature demonstrating the need that such a regulation is necessary, the Department of Banking and Insurance may adopt regulations providing that health benefit plans delivered, issued, executed, or renewed in this State, require coverage for abortion. If the department adopts a regulation establishing this coverage requirement, the department will also be required to mandate that carriers grant, upon request of a religious employer, an exclusion under the contract for the required coverage if the coverage conflicts with the religious employer's bona fide religious beliefs and practices. A religious employer that obtains such an exclusion will be required to provide written notice thereof to covered persons and prospective covered persons, and the carrier will additionally be required to provide notice to the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance in such form and manner as may be determined by the commissioner. Nothing in this requirement is to be construed as authorizing a carrier to exclude coverage for care that is necessary to preserve the life or health of a subscriber. insurance exclusion authorized by the department will not constitute a violation of the provisions of the bill invalidating laws determined to have the effect of abridging or limiting the constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice.

The bill provides that a contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the State Health Benefits Commission or the School Employees' Health Benefits Commission may provide coverage for abortion. A contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by either commission may not exclude a provider from its network or otherwise restrict services from the provider solely on the basis that the provider is a religious employer that refuses to provide abortion services.

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Codifies constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice.

#### **CHAPTER 375**

**AN ACT** concerning freedom of reproductive choice and supplementing Title 10 of the Revised Statutes, P.L.1997, c.192 (C.26:2S-1 et seq.), and Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

C.10:7-1 Findings and declarations.

- 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
- a. In cases such as Right to Choose v. Byrne, 91 N.J. 287 (1982) and Planned Parenthood of Cent. N.J. v. Farmer, 165 N.J. 609 (2000), the New Jersey Supreme Court has recognized that the right to reproductive choice is a fundamental right enshrined in the State Constitution, that this right is independent of the United States Constitution, and that Article I, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution is independent of, and protects reproductive autonomy to an extent that exceeds the protections established under, the United States Constitution.
- b. The New Jersey Supreme Court has found that the right to reproductive choice includes the right to determine whether and when to bear children. In particular, the citizens of New Jersey may: access contraception, including emergency contraception; may not be denied public benefits based on the choice to have additional children; may choose to terminate a pregnancy; and may choose to carry a pregnancy to term.
- c. Self-determination in reproductive choice is key to helping establish equality among the genders and to allowing all people of childbearing age to participate equally in the economic and social life of the United States and the State of New Jersey.
- d. An unplanned pregnancy can disrupt educational and career plans, forcing the pregnant person to drop out of school, abandon pursuit of a college or advanced degree, accept lower-paying employment or employment with limited opportunities for advancement, or delay entrance into the workforce, which can have the effect of limiting the person's lifetime earnings and can prevent the person from following a chosen career path.
- e. The right to choose whether and when to have children allows people to more effectively plan in a way that is compatible with the person's overall life goals. Although each person retains the right to exercise the freedom of reproductive choice regardless of the health and strength of the person's interpersonal relationships, where and how the person lives, or the person's income level and overall resources, the essence of the right to reproductive choice is that people have the ability to make reproductive choices in a manner commensurate with their own personal beliefs, life plan, and moral code.
- f. Governmental restrictions on reproductive choice, by their very nature, impinge on the constitutional right to reproductive autonomy, particularly when they fail to confer any benefits to patients in the form of improved health or safety. Moreover, restrictions of this nature often have a disparate impact that is predominantly felt by persons who already experience barriers to health care access, including young people, people of color, people with disabilities, people with low income, people living in rural areas, immigrants, and people who are transgender or non-binary.
- g. The Legislature is committed to ensuring that no barriers to reproductive freedom exist in the State. Individuals have the right to make their own decisions concerning reproduction, including the right to contraception, the right to terminate a pregnancy, and the right to carry a pregnancy to term, without government interference or fear of prosecution.
- h. It is both reasonable and necessary for the State to enable, facilitate, support, and safeguard the provision of high-quality, comprehensive reproductive and sexual health care, including the full range of evidence-based information, counseling, and health care services,

to all individuals in the State, and to enable, facilitate, support, and safeguard the ability of such individuals to access affordable and timely reproductive health care services and to engage in autonomous reproductive decision-making, in consultation with health care professionals of their choosing, without fear of prosecution, discrimination, or unnecessary barriers to care. To achieve those ends, it shall be the policy of this State to:

- (1) explicitly guarantee, to every individual, the fundamental right to reproductive autonomy, which includes the right to contraception, the right to terminate a pregnancy, and the right to carry a pregnancy to term;
- (2) enable all qualified health care professionals to provide pregnancy termination services in the State;
- (3) advance comprehensive insurance coverage for reproductive care, including primary reproductive health care services, services to terminate a pregnancy, long-acting contraceptives, and long-term supplies of hormonal contraceptives, that enables the citizens of New Jersey to fully exercise their freedom of reproductive choice while recognizing the rights of certain religious employers to request an exemption from such coverage; and
- (4) ensure that all laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, resolutions, policies, standards, or parts thereof, that are currently in force or enacted in the future, conform to the provisions and the express or implied purposes of this act, and that any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, resolution, policy, standard, or part thereof that conflicts with the provisions of this act or its express or implied purposes is subject to invalidation.

#### C.10:7-2 Reproductive choice rights.

- 2. a. Every individual present in the State, including, but not limited to, an individual who is under State control or supervision, shall have the fundamental right to: choose or refuse contraception or sterilization; and choose whether to carry a pregnancy, to give birth, or to terminate a pregnancy. The New Jersey Constitution recognizes the fundamental nature of the right to reproductive choice, including the right to access contraception, to terminate a pregnancy, and to carry a pregnancy to term, shall not be abridged by any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or order issued by any State, county, or local governmental authority. Any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or order, in effect on or adopted after the effective date of this act, that is determined to have the effect of limiting the constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice and that does not conform with the provisions and the express or implied purposes of this act, shall be deemed invalid and shall have no force or effect.
- b. The provisions of this section shall be enforceable under the "New Jersey Civil Rights Act," P.L.2004, c.143 (C.10:6-1 et seq.) or in any other manner provided by law.

#### C.26:2S-39 Health benefit plans, coverage for abortion, certain religious employers exempt.

3. a. Upon concluding a study and issuing a report to the Governor and the Legislature demonstrating that such a regulation is necessary, the Department of Banking and Insurance may, through regulation adopted pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act", P.L.1968 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), provide that health benefit plans delivered, issued, executed, or renewed in this State, provide coverage for abortion. If the department provides for coverage pursuant to this section, then the department shall also require carriers to grant, upon request of a religious employer, an exclusion under the contract for the coverage required if the required coverage conflicts with the religious employer's bona fide religious beliefs and practices. A religious employer that obtains such an exclusion shall provide written notice thereof to covered persons and prospective covered persons, and the carrier shall provide notice to the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance in such form and manner as may be determined

by the commissioner. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be construed as authorizing a carrier to exclude coverage for care that is necessary to preserve the life or health of a subscriber. An exclusion from an insurance coverage mandate granted to a religious employer pursuant to this section shall not be considered a violation of section 2 of P.L.2021, c.375 (C.10:7-2).

b. For the purposes of this section, "religious employer" means an organization that is organized and operates as a nonprofit entity and is referred to in section 6033(a)(3)(A)(i) or (iii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. s.6033), as amended.

C.52:14-17.29hh SHBC, coverage for abortion, certain religious employers exemption.

4. A contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the State Health Benefits Commission may provide coverage for abortion. A contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the commission shall not exclude a provider from its network or otherwise restrict services from the provider solely on the basis that the provider is a religious employer, as defined in section 3 of P.L.2021, c.375 (C.26:2S-39), that refuses to provide abortion services.

C.52:14-17.46.6q School Employees' Health Benefits Commission, coverage for abortion, certain religious employers exemption.

- 5. A contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the School Employees' Health Benefits Commission may provide coverage for abortion. A contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the commission shall not exclude a provider from its network or otherwise restrict services from the provider solely on the basis that the provider is a religious employer, as defined in section 3 of P.L.2021, c.375 (C.26:2S-39), that refuses to provide abortion services.
  - 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 13, 2022.

## SENATE, No. 49

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 6, 2022

**Sponsored by:** 

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)** 

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

**District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)** 

**Senator VIN GOPAL** 

**District 11 (Monmouth)** 

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)** 

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

**District 33 (Hudson)** 

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Downey, Assemblyman Zwicker, Assemblywomen Lampitt and Swain

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Codifies constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice.

#### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/10/2022)

**AN ACT** concerning freedom of reproductive choice and supplementing Title 10 of the Revised Statutes, P.L.1997, c.192 (C.26:2S-1 et seq.), and Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

- 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
- In cases such as Right to Choose v. Byrne, 91 N.J. 287 (1982) and Planned Parenthood of Cent. N.J. v. Farmer, 165 N.J. 609 (2000), the New Jersey Supreme Court has recognized that the right to reproductive choice is a fundamental right enshrined in the State Constitution, that this right is independent of the United States Constitution, and that Article I, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution is independent of, and protects reproductive autonomy to an extent that exceeds the protections established under, the United States Constitution.
  - b. The New Jersey Supreme Court has found that the right to reproductive choice includes the right to determine whether and when to bear children. In particular, the citizens of New Jersey may: access contraception, including emergency contraception; may not be denied public benefits based on the choice to have additional children; may choose to terminate a pregnancy; and may choose to carry a pregnancy to term.
  - c. Self-determination in reproductive choice is key to helping establish equality among the genders and to allowing all people of childbearing age to participate equally in the economic and social life of the United States and the State of New Jersey.
  - d. An unplanned pregnancy can disrupt educational and career plans, forcing the pregnant person to drop out of school, abandon pursuit of a college or advanced degree, accept lower-paying employment or employment with limited opportunities for advancement, or delay entrance into the workforce, which can have the effect of limiting the person's lifetime earnings and can prevent the person from following a chosen career path.
  - e. The right to choose whether and when to have children allows people to more effectively plan in a way that is compatible with the person's overall life goals. Although each person retains the right to exercise the freedom of reproductive choice regardless of the health and strength of the person's interpersonal relationships, where and how the person lives, or the person's income level and overall resources, the essence of the right to reproductive choice is that people have the ability to make reproductive choices in a manner commensurate with their own personal beliefs, life plan, and moral code.

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- Governmental restrictions on reproductive choice, by their very nature, impinge on the constitutional right to reproductive autonomy, particularly when they fail to confer any benefits to patients in the form of improved health or safety. restrictions of this nature often have a disparate impact that is predominantly felt by persons who already experience barriers to health care access, including young people, people of color, people with disabilities, people with low income, people living in rural areas, immigrants, and people who are transgender or non-binary.
- g. The Legislature is committed to ensuring that no barriers to reproductive freedom exist in the State. Individuals have the right to make their own decisions concerning reproduction, including the right to contraception, the right to terminate a pregnancy, and the right to carry a pregnancy to term, without government interference or fear of prosecution.
- h. It is both reasonable and necessary for the State to enable, facilitate, support, and safeguard the provision of high quality, comprehensive reproductive and sexual health care, including the full range of evidence-based information, counseling, and health care services, to all individuals in the State, and to enable, facilitate, support, and safeguard the ability of such individuals to access affordable and timely reproductive health care services and to engage in autonomous reproductive decision-making, in consultation with health care professionals of their choosing, without fear of prosecution, discrimination, or unnecessary barriers to care. To achieve those ends, it shall be the policy of this State to:
- (1) explicitly guarantee, to every individual, the fundamental right to reproductive autonomy, which includes the right to contraception, the right to terminate a pregnancy, and the right to carry a pregnancy to term;
- (2) enable all qualified health care professionals to provide pregnancy termination services in the State;
- (3) advance comprehensive insurance coverage for reproductive care, including primary reproductive health care services, services to terminate a pregnancy, long-acting contraceptives, and long-term supplies of hormonal contraceptives, that enables the citizens of New Jersey to fully exercise their freedom of reproductive choice while recognizing the rights of certain religious employers to request an exemption from such coverage; and
- (4) ensure that all laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, resolutions, policies, standards, or parts thereof, that are currently in force or enacted in the future, conform to the provisions and the express or implied purposes of this act, and that any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, resolution, policy, standard, or part thereof that conflicts with the provisions of this act or its express or implied purposes is subject to invalidation.

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- 2. a. Every individual present in the State, including, but not limited to, an individual who is under State control or supervision, shall have the fundamental right to: choose or refuse contraception or sterilization; and choose whether to carry a pregnancy, to give birth, or to terminate a pregnancy. The New Jersey Constitution recognizes the fundamental nature of the right to reproductive choice, including the right to access contraception, to terminate a pregnancy, and to carry a pregnancy to term, shall not be abridged by any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or order issued by any State, county, or local governmental authority. Any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or order, in effect on or adopted after the effective date of this act, that is determined to have the effect of limiting the constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice and that does not conform with the provisions and the express or implied purposes of this act, shall be deemed invalid and shall have no force or effect.
  - b. The provisions of this section shall be enforceable under the "New Jersey Civil Rights Act," P.L.2004, c.143 (C.10:6-1 et seq.) or in any other manner provided by law.

- Upon concluding a study and issuing a report to the Governor and the Legislature demonstrating that such a regulation is necessary, the Department of Banking and Insurance may, through regulation adopted pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act", P.L.1968 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), provide that health benefit plans delivered, issued, executed, or renewed in this State, provide coverage for abortion. If the department provides for coverage pursuant to this section, then the department shall also require carriers to grant, upon request of a religious employer, an exclusion under the contract for the coverage required if the required coverage conflicts with the religious employer's bona fide religious beliefs and practices. A religious employer that obtains such an exclusion shall provide written notice thereof to covered persons and prospective covered persons, and the carrier shall provide notice to the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance in such form and manner as may be determined by the commissioner. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be construed as authorizing a carrier to exclude coverage for care that is necessary to preserve the life or health of a An exclusion from an insurance coverage mandate subscriber. granted to a religious employer pursuant to this section shall not be considered a violation of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. before the Legislature as this bill).
- b. For the purposes of this section, "religious employer" means an organization that is organized and operates as a nonprofit entity and is referred to in section 6033(a)(3)(A)(i) or (iii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. s.6033), as amended.

4. A contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the State Health Benefits Commission may provide

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coverage for abortion. A contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the commission shall not exclude a provider from its network or otherwise restrict services from the provider solely on the basis that the provider is a religious employer, as defined in section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), that refuses to provide abortion services.

5. A contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the School Employees' Health Benefits Commission may provide coverage for abortion. A contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the commission shall not exclude a provider from its network or otherwise restrict services from the provider solely on the basis that the provider is a religious employer, as defined in section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), that refuses to provide abortion services.

6. This act shall take effect immediately.

#### **STATEMENT**

This bill establishes certain requirements related to the right to reproductive choice in New Jersey.

Specifically, the bill codifies the constitutional right, which has been recognized by the New Jersey Supreme Court, to freedom of reproductive choice, including the right to access contraception, to terminate a pregnancy, and to carry a pregnancy to term. Any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or order that has the effect of abridging the constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice, including a law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or order in effect on, or adopted after, the effective date of the bill, will be deemed invalid and will have no force or effect. The bill specifically provides that every individual present in the State, including, but not limited to, an individual who is under State control or supervision, has the fundamental right to choose or refuse contraception or sterilization; and to choose whether to carry a pregnancy, to give birth, or to terminate a pregnancy.

The bill additionally provides that, after concluding a study and issuing a report to the Governor and the Legislature demonstrating the need that such a regulation is necessary, the Department of Banking and Insurance may adopt regulations providing that health benefit plans delivered, issued, executed, or renewed in this State, require coverage for abortion. If the department adopts a regulation establishing this coverage requirement, the department will also be required to mandate that carriers grant, upon request of a religious employer, an exclusion under the contract for the required coverage if the coverage conflicts with the religious employer's bona fide

#### **S49** WEINBERG, GREENSTEIN

1 religious beliefs and practices. A religious employer that obtains 2 such an exclusion will be required to provide written notice thereof 3 to covered persons and prospective covered persons, and the carrier 4 will additionally be required to provide notice to the Commissioner 5 of Banking and Insurance in such form and manner as may be 6 determined by the commissioner. Nothing in this requirement is to 7 be construed as authorizing a carrier to exclude coverage for care that 8 is necessary to preserve the life or health of a subscriber. 9 insurance exclusion authorized by the department will not constitute 10 a violation of the provisions of the bill invalidating laws determined 11 to have the effect of abridging or limiting the constitutional right to 12 freedom of reproductive choice.

The bill provides that a contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the State Health Benefits Commission or the School Employees' Health Benefits Commission may provide coverage for abortion. A contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by either commission may not exclude a provider from its network or otherwise restrict services from the provider solely on the basis that the provider is a religious employer that refuses to provide abortion services.

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# SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE

#### STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 49

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 6, 2022

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 49.

This bill establishes certain requirements related to the right to reproductive choice in New Jersey.

Specifically, the bill codifies the constitutional right, which has been recognized by the New Jersey Supreme Court, to freedom of reproductive choice, including the right to access contraception, to terminate a pregnancy, and to carry a pregnancy to term. Any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or order that has the effect of abridging the constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice, including a law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or order in effect on, or adopted after, the effective date of the bill, will be deemed invalid and will have no force or effect. The bill specifically provides that every individual present in the State, including, but not limited to, an individual who is under State control or supervision, has the fundamental right to choose or refuse contraception or sterilization; and to choose whether to carry a pregnancy, to give birth, or to terminate a pregnancy.

The bill additionally provides that, after concluding a study and issuing a report to the Governor and the Legislature demonstrating the need that such a regulation is necessary, the Department of Banking and Insurance may adopt regulations providing that health benefit plans delivered, issued, executed, or renewed in this State, require coverage for abortion. If the department adopts a regulation establishing this coverage requirement, the department will also be required to mandate that carriers grant, upon request of a religious employer, an exclusion under the contract for the required coverage if the coverage conflicts with the religious employer's bona fide religious beliefs and practices. A religious employer that obtains such an exclusion will be required to provide written notice thereof to covered persons and prospective covered persons, and the carrier will additionally be required to provide notice to the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance in such form and manner as may be determined by the commissioner. Nothing in this requirement is to be construed as authorizing a carrier to exclude coverage for care that is necessary to preserve the life or health of a subscriber. An insurance exclusion authorized by the department will not constitute a violation of the

provisions of the bill invalidating laws determined to have the effect of abridging or limiting the constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice.

The bill provides that a contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the State Health Benefits Commission or the School Employees' Health Benefits Commission may provide coverage for abortion. A contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by either commission may not exclude a provider from its network or otherwise restrict services from the provider solely on the basis that the provider is a religious employer that refuses to provide abortion services.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE SENATE, No. 49 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JANUARY 18, 2022

#### **SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** Codifies constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice.

**Type of Impact:** One-time State expenditure increase.

**Agencies Affected:** Department of Banking and Insurance.

#### Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	Magnitude
One-Time State Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that this bill may result in a one-time indeterminate increase in State expenditures tied to the requirement that the Department of Banking and Insurance study and issue a report on the necessity of regulations requiring health benefits plan coverage of abortion services.
- Annual State and local government expenditures might be altered if the Department of Banking and Insurance were to exercise its authority granted under the bill to impose a statewide mandate that health benefits plans cover abortion services after finding in its study that such a mandate is necessary. Absent information on the specifics of such a possible mandate, the OLS lacks the informational basis to assess to what extent a mandate might affect the annual expenditures of the State's Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare program and State and local government employee health benefits plans.
- The State Health Benefits Program and the School Employees' Health Benefits Program
  currently cover abortion services that are deemed medically necessary or elective under certain
  co-pay and deductible conditions. The State's Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare program, in turn,
  currently covers abortion services that are deemed medically necessary pursuant to program
  guidelines.

#### **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill requires the Department of Banking and Insurance to study and issue a report to the Governor and the Legislature on the necessity of a statewide mandate that health benefit plans



cover abortion services. If the department affirms that necessity, it may impose a statewide abortion coverage mandate, with an exclusion for qualified religious employers. An insurance carrier that provides a health benefits plan to a religious employer without abortion coverage will have to notify the department thereof in such manner as the department may prescribe.

#### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### **EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

None received.

#### OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS notes that this bill may result in a one-time indeterminate increase in State expenditures tied to the requirement that the Department of Banking and Insurance study and issue a report on the necessity of regulations requiring health benefits plan coverage of abortion services.

The bill may also affect the annual expenditures of the State and local governments if the Department of Banking and Insurance were to exercise its authority granted under the bill to impose a statewide mandate that health benefits plans cover abortion services after finding in its study that such a mandate is necessary. Absent information on the specifics of such a possible mandate, the OLS lacks the informational basis to determine to what extent a mandate might affect the annual expenditures of the State's Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare program and employee health benefits plans offered by State and local government employers.

The State Health Benefits Program and the School Employees' Health Benefits Program currently cover abortion services that are deemed medically necessary or elective under certain copay and deductible conditions. The State's Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare program, in turn, currently covers abortion services that are deemed medically necessary pursuant to program guidelines.

Section: Commerce, Labor and Industry

Analyst: Juan Rodriguez

Senior Fiscal Analyst

Approved: Thomas Koenig

Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

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

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

## ASSEMBLY, No. 6260

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 6, 2022

**Sponsored by:** 

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE District 37 (Bergen) Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY District 27 (Essex and Morris) Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

Co-Sponsored by:

**District 33 (Hudson)** 

Assemblywoman Downey, Assemblyman Zwicker, Assemblywomen Lampitt and Swain

#### **SYNOPSIS**

Codifies constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice.

#### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/10/2022)

AN ACT concerning freedom of reproductive choice and supplementing Title 10 of the Revised Statutes, P.L.1997, c.192 (C.26:2S-1 et seq.), and Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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

- 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
- In cases such as Right to Choose v. Byrne, 91 N.J. 287 (1982) and Planned Parenthood of Cent. N.J. v. Farmer, 165 N.J. 609 (2000), the New Jersey Supreme Court has recognized that the right to reproductive choice is a fundamental right enshrined in the State Constitution, that this right is independent of the United States Constitution, and that Article I, paragraph 1 of the New Jersey Constitution is independent of, and protects reproductive autonomy to an extent that exceeds the protections established under, the United States Constitution.
  - b. The New Jersey Supreme Court has found that the right to reproductive choice includes the right to determine whether and when to bear children. In particular, the citizens of New Jersey may: access contraception, including emergency contraception; may not be denied public benefits based on the choice to have additional children; may choose to terminate a pregnancy; and may choose to carry a pregnancy to term.
  - c. Self-determination in reproductive choice is key to helping establish equality among the genders and to allowing all people of childbearing age to participate equally in the economic and social life of the United States and the State of New Jersey.
  - d. An unplanned pregnancy can disrupt educational and career plans, forcing the pregnant person to drop out of school, abandon pursuit of a college or advanced degree, accept lower-paying employment or employment with limited opportunities for advancement, or delay entrance into the workforce, which can have the effect of limiting the person's lifetime earnings and can prevent the person from following a chosen career path.
  - e. The right to choose whether and when to have children allows people to more effectively plan in a way that is compatible with the person's overall life goals. Although each person retains the right to exercise the freedom of reproductive choice regardless of the health and strength of the person's interpersonal relationships, where and how the person lives, or the person's income level and overall resources, the essence of the right to reproductive choice is that people have the ability to make reproductive choices in a manner commensurate with their own personal beliefs, life plan, and moral code.
  - f. Governmental restrictions on reproductive choice, by their very nature, impinge on the constitutional right to reproductive autonomy, particularly when they fail to confer any benefits to

patients in the form of improved health or safety. Moreover, restrictions of this nature often have a disparate impact that is predominantly felt by persons who already experience barriers to health care access, including young people, people of color, people with disabilities, people with low income, people living in rural areas, immigrants, and people who are transgender or non-binary.

- g. The Legislature is committed to ensuring that no barriers to reproductive freedom exist in the State. Individuals have the right to make their own decisions concerning reproduction, including the right to contraception, the right to terminate a pregnancy, and the right to carry a pregnancy to term, without government interference or fear of prosecution.
- h. It is both reasonable and necessary for the State to enable, facilitate, support, and safeguard the provision of high quality, comprehensive reproductive and sexual health care, including the full range of evidence-based information, counseling, and health care services, to all individuals in the State, and to enable, facilitate, support, and safeguard the ability of such individuals to access affordable and timely reproductive health care services and to engage in autonomous reproductive decision-making, in consultation with health care professionals of their choosing, without fear of prosecution, discrimination, or unnecessary barriers to care. To achieve those ends, it shall be the policy of this State to:
- (1) explicitly guarantee, to every individual, the fundamental right to reproductive autonomy, which includes the right to contraception, the right to terminate a pregnancy, and the right to carry a pregnancy to term;
- (2) enable all qualified health care professionals to provide pregnancy termination services in the State;
- (3) advance comprehensive insurance coverage for reproductive care, including primary reproductive health care services, services to terminate a pregnancy, long-acting contraceptives, and long-term supplies of hormonal contraceptives, that enables the citizens of New Jersey to fully exercise their freedom of reproductive choice while recognizing the rights of certain religious employers to request an exemption from such coverage; and
- (4) ensure that all laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, resolutions, policies, standards, or parts thereof, that are currently in force or enacted in the future, conform to the provisions and the express or implied purposes of this act, and that any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, resolution, policy, standard, or part thereof that conflicts with the provisions of this act or its express or implied purposes is subject to invalidation.

2. a. Every individual present in the State, including, but not limited to, an individual who is under State control or supervision, shall have the fundamental right to: choose or refuse contraception or sterilization; and choose whether to carry a pregnancy, to give

#### A6260 VAINIERI HUTTLE, JASEY

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- 1 birth, or to terminate a pregnancy. The New Jersey Constitution 2 recognizes the fundamental nature of the right to reproductive choice, 3 including the right to access contraception, to terminate a pregnancy, 4 and to carry a pregnancy to term, shall not be abridged by any law, 5 rule, regulation, ordinance, or order issued by any State, county, or 6 local governmental authority. Any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, 7 or order, in effect on or adopted after the effective date of this act, 8 that is determined to have the effect of limiting the constitutional 9 right to freedom of reproductive choice and that does not conform 10 with the provisions and the express or implied purposes of this act, 11 shall be deemed invalid and shall have no force or effect.
  - b. The provisions of this section shall be enforceable under the "New Jersey Civil Rights Act," P.L.2004, c.143 (C.10:6-1 et seq.) or in any other manner provided by law.

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3. a. Upon concluding a study and issuing a report to the Governor and the Legislature demonstrating that such a regulation is necessary, the Department of Banking and Insurance may, through regulation adopted pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act", P.L.1968 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), provide that health benefit plans delivered, issued, executed, or renewed in this State, provide coverage for abortion. If the department provides for coverage pursuant to this section, then the department shall also require carriers to grant, upon request of a religious employer, an exclusion under the contract for the coverage required if the required coverage conflicts with the religious employer's bona fide religious beliefs and practices. A religious employer that obtains such an exclusion shall provide written notice thereof to covered persons and prospective covered persons, and the carrier shall provide notice to the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance in such form and manner as may be determined by the commissioner. The provisions of this paragraph shall not be construed as authorizing a carrier to exclude coverage for care that is necessary to preserve the life or health of a subscriber. An exclusion from an insurance coverage mandate granted to a religious employer pursuant to this section shall not be considered a violation of section 2 of P.L., c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

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b. For the purposes of this section, "religious employer" means an organization that is organized and operates as a nonprofit entity and is referred to in section 6033(a)(3)(A)(i) or (iii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. s.6033), as amended.

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4. A contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the State Health Benefits Commission may provide coverage for abortion. A contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the commission shall not exclude a provider from its network or otherwise restrict services from the provider solely on the basis that the provider is a religious employer,

#### A6260 VAINIERI HUTTLE, JASEY

as defined in section 3 of P.L., c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), that refuses to provide abortion services.

5. A contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the School Employees' Health Benefits Commission may provide coverage for abortion. A contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the commission shall not exclude a provider from its network or otherwise restrict services from the provider solely on the basis that the provider is a religious employer, as defined in section 3 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), that refuses to provide abortion services.

6. This act shall take effect immediately.

#### **STATEMENT**

This bill establishes certain requirements related to the right to reproductive choice in New Jersey.

Specifically, the bill codifies the constitutional right, which has been recognized by the New Jersey Supreme Court, to freedom of reproductive choice, including the right to access contraception, to terminate a pregnancy, and to carry a pregnancy to term. Any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or order that has the effect of abridging the constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice, including a law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or order in effect on, or adopted after, the effective date of the bill, will be deemed invalid and will have no force or effect. The bill specifically provides that every individual present in the State, including, but not limited to, an individual who is under State control or supervision, has the fundamental right to choose or refuse contraception or sterilization; and to choose whether to carry a pregnancy, to give birth, or to terminate a pregnancy.

The bill additionally provides that, after concluding a study and issuing a report to the Governor and the Legislature demonstrating the need that such a regulation is necessary, the Department of Banking and Insurance may adopt regulations providing that health benefit plans delivered, issued, executed, or renewed in this State, require coverage for abortion. If the department adopts a regulation establishing this coverage requirement, the department will also be required to mandate that carriers grant, upon request of a religious employer, an exclusion under the contract for the required coverage if the coverage conflicts with the religious employer's bona fide religious beliefs and practices. A religious employer that obtains such an exclusion will be required to provide written notice thereof to covered persons and prospective covered persons, and the carrier will additionally be required to provide notice to the Commissioner

#### A6260 VAINIERI HUTTLE, JASEY

of Banking and Insurance in such form and manner as may be determined by the commissioner. Nothing in this requirement is to be construed as authorizing a carrier to exclude coverage for care that is necessary to preserve the life or health of a subscriber. An insurance exclusion authorized by the department will not constitute a violation of the provisions of the bill invalidating laws determined to have the effect of abridging or limiting the constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice.

The bill provides that a contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the State Health Benefits Commission or the School Employees' Health Benefits Commission may provide coverage for abortion. A contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by either commission may not exclude a provider from its network or otherwise restrict services from the provider solely on the basis that the provider is a religious employer that refuses to provide abortion services.

#### ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

#### STATEMENT TO

#### ASSEMBLY, No. 6260

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 6, 2022

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 6260.

This bill establishes certain requirements related to the right to reproductive choice in New Jersey.

Specifically, the bill codifies the constitutional right, which has been recognized by the New Jersey Supreme Court, to freedom of reproductive choice, including the right to access contraception, to terminate a pregnancy, and to carry a pregnancy to term. Any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or order that has the effect of abridging the constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice, including a law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or order in effect on, or adopted after, the effective date of the bill, will be deemed invalid and will have no force or effect. The bill specifically provides that every individual present in the State, including, but not limited to, an individual who is under State control or supervision, has the fundamental right to choose or refuse contraception or sterilization; and to choose whether to carry a pregnancy, to give birth, or to terminate a pregnancy.

The bill additionally provides that, after concluding a study and issuing a report to the Governor and the Legislature demonstrating the need that such a regulation is necessary, the Department of Banking and Insurance may adopt regulations providing that health benefit plans delivered, issued, executed, or renewed in this State, require coverage for abortion. If the department adopts a regulation establishing this coverage requirement, the department will also be required to mandate that carriers grant, upon request of a religious employer, an exclusion under the contract for the required coverage if the coverage conflicts with the religious employer's bona fide religious beliefs and practices. A religious employer that obtains such an exclusion will be required to provide written notice thereof to covered persons and prospective covered persons, and the carrier will additionally be required to provide notice to the Commissioner of Banking and Insurance in such form and manner as may be determined by the commissioner. Nothing in this requirement is to be construed as authorizing a carrier to exclude coverage for care that is necessary to preserve the life or health of a subscriber. An insurance exclusion authorized by the department will not constitute a violation of the provisions of the bill invalidating laws determined to have the effect of

abridging or limiting the constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice.

The bill provides that a contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by the State Health Benefits Commission or the School Employees' Health Benefits Commission may provide coverage for abortion. A contract providing hospital or medical expense benefits purchased by either commission may not exclude a provider from its network or otherwise restrict services from the provider solely on the basis that the provider is a religious employer that refuses to provide abortion services.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 6260 STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JANUARY 13, 2022

#### **SUMMARY**

**Synopsis:** Codifies constitutional right to freedom of reproductive choice.

**Type of Impact:** One-time State expenditure increase.

**Agencies Affected:** Department of Banking and Insurance.

#### **Office of Legislative Services Estimate**

Fiscal Impact	Magnitude
One-Time State Expenditure Increase	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that this bill may result in a one-time indeterminate increase in State expenditures tied to the requirement that the Department of Banking and Insurance study and issue a report on the necessity of regulations requiring health benefits plan coverage of abortion services.
- Annual State and local government expenditures might be altered if the Department of Banking and Insurance were to exercise its authority granted under the bill to impose a statewide mandate that health benefits plans cover abortion services after finding in its study that such a mandate is necessary. Absent information on the specifics of such a possible mandate, the OLS lacks the informational basis to assess to what extent a mandate might affect the annual expenditures of the State's Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare program and State and local government employee health benefits plans.
- The State Health Benefits Program and the School Employees' Health Benefits Program
  currently cover abortion services that are deemed medically necessary or elective under
  certain co-pay and deductible conditions. The State's Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare program, in
  turn, currently covers abortion services that are deemed medically necessary pursuant to
  program guidelines.



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#### **BILL DESCRIPTION**

This bill requires the Department of Banking and Insurance to study and issue a report to the Governor and the Legislature on the necessity of a statewide mandate that health benefit plans cover abortion services. If the department affirms that necessity, it may impose a statewide abortion coverage mandate, with an exclusion for qualified religious employers. An insurance carrier that provides a health benefits plan to a religious employer without abortion coverage will have to notify the department thereof in such manner as the department may prescribe.

#### FISCAL ANALYSIS

#### EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

#### OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS notes that this bill may result in a one-time indeterminate increase in State expenditures tied to the requirement that the Department of Banking and Insurance study and issue a report on the necessity of regulations requiring health benefits plan coverage of abortion services.

The bill may also affect the annual expenditures of the State and local governments if the Department of Banking and Insurance were to exercise its authority granted under the bill to impose a statewide mandate that health benefits plans cover abortion services after finding in its study that such a mandate is necessary. Absent information on the specifics of such a possible mandate, the OLS lacks the informational basis to determine to what extent a mandate might affect the annual expenditures of the State's Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare program and employee health benefits plans offered by State and local government employers.

The State Health Benefits Program and the School Employees' Health Benefits Program currently cover abortion services that are deemed medically necessary or elective under certain copay and deductible conditions. The State's Medicaid/NJ FamilyCare program, in turn, currently covers abortion services that are deemed medically necessary pursuant to program guidelines.

Section: Commerce, Labor and Industry

Analyst: Juan Rodriguez Senior Fiscal Analyst

Approved: Thomas Koenig

Legislative Budget and Finance Officer

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

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

# Governor Murphy Takes Action on Legislation

11/8/2021

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

**S-249/A-1259 (Singleton, Turner/Schaer, DeCroce, Vainieri Huttle)** – Requires pharmacy benefits manager providing services within Medicaid program to disclose certain information to DHS

**S-324/A-3533 (Diegnan, A.M. Bucco/Benson, Freiman, DeCroce)** – Authorizes operators of motor vehicles to display electronic proof of registration; requires MVC to send application for registration renewal to lessee of leased vehicle

SCS for S-399 and 1645/ACS for A-869 and 1380 (Lagana, Weinberg, Stack, Turner, Cunningham/Chiaravalloti, Holley) – Requires residential landlords to install covers on steam radiators upon request of tenant

**S-537/A-3110 (Codey/McKeon, Verrelli, Vainieri Huttle)** – Establishes certain minimum and maximum temperatures in rooming and boarding houses, dementia care homes, and certain nursing homes and residential health care facilities

**S-550/A-1616 (Codey, Pennacchio/Lampitt, Conaway, Vainieri Huttle)** – Requires certain student identification cards to contain telephone number for suicide prevention hotline

SCS for S-647/A-4825 (Greenstein, Singleton/McKeon, Karabinchak, Stanley) – Revises cybersecurity, asset management, and related reporting requirements in "Water Quality Accountability Act"

**S-828/A-2101 (Lagana, Greenstein/Swain, Tully, Verrelli)** – Requires public utilities and local units to provide notice prior to initiating certain infrastructure projects

S-829/A-2135 (Lagana, Singleton/Tully, Swain, Murphy) – Requires property condition disclosure statement to indicate presence of lead plumbing in residential property

S-830/A-2134 (Lagana, Greenstein/Tully, Swain, Conaway) – Requires public water systems to offer drinking water tests to customers in certain circumstances

S-894/A-3874 (Pou, Greenstein/Lopez, Vainieri Huttle) – Prohibits sale of paint or coating removal products that contain methylene chloride unless purchaser meets certain safety standards for use

**S-1010/A-2103 (Lagana, Turner/Swain, Tully, Johnson)** – Permits counties and municipalities to bond for alternative fuel vehicles

S-1047/A-1712 (Cryan, Pou/Burzichelli, Karabinchak, Giblin) – Concerns disclosure of certain information prior to sale of real estate

**S-1148/A-1221 (Ruiz, Pou/Chaparro, Speight, Wimberly)** – Requires emergency contact information and access instructions for social services hotline to be provided to tenants of multiple dwellings

**S-1239/A-5131 (Codey/McKeon, Danielsen, Jasey)** – Authorizes imposition of fee for connection to municipal electric distribution system

S-1259/A-2628 (Singleton/Murphy) – Concerns labor contractors

S-1726/A-795 (Lagana, Pou/Verrelli, Swain, Zwicker) – Prohibits sale of cosmetic products that have been tested on animals

- **S-2727/A-4775 (Pennacchio, Pou/Vainieri Huttle, Jasey, McKnight)** Establishes Multigenerational Family Housing Continuity Commission; provides municipal guidance to periodically analyze local advancement of commission's senior citizen housing recommendations
- **S-2861/A-5390 (Singleton, Addiego/Quijano, McKnight, Speight)** Concerns certain restrictive covenants on real property
- **S-2996/A-5019 (Testa, Sweeney/McClellan, Taliaferro, Johnson)** Allows Board of Cosmetology and Hairstyling licensees to operate mobile facilities when providing services
- S-3000/A-4688 (Weinberg, Greenstein/Benson, Verrelli, Vainieri Huttle) Codifies and establishes certain network adequacy standards for pediatric primary and specialty care in Medicaid program
- **S-3032/A-4855 (Sweeney, Vitale/Benson, Vainieri Huttle, Chiaravalloti)** Requires DOH to develop Statewide plan for infection control and prevention infrastructure improvements in nursing homes
- **S-3091/A-4933 (Addiego, Bateman/Burzichelli, Benson, Mukherji)** Requires builders to offer unit concrete products that utilize carbon footprint-reducing technology as option in new construction; establishes tax incentives, and State and local purchasing requirements, for unit concrete products that utilize carbon footprint-reducing technology
- S-3253/A-2619 (Singleton, Ruiz/Murphy, Speight, Mukherji) Establishes alternate route to expedite certification of teachers at early college high school programs
- S-3318/A-5893 (Sweeney, Pou/Vainieri Huttle, Caputo, Karabinchak) Provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross income tax returns for Special Olympics New Jersey
- **S-3590/A-5536 (Diegnan, Turner/Burzichelli, Giblin)** Allows formation of limited liability companies by real estate salespersons and broker-salespersons to receive commission income and requires certain disclosures on promotions
- S-3811/A-5769 (Sweeney, Scutari/Reynolds-Jackson, Quijano, Carter) Establishes Kean University as public urban research university
- **S-3948/A-5896 (Addiego, Gopal/Houghtaling, Downey)** Authorizes supplemental State aid to school districts receiving certain federal Impact Aid; makes appropriation
- **SJR-41/AJR-33 (Cruz-Perez, Addiego/Lopez, McKnight)** Designates June 2 of each year as "Gun Violence Awareness Day"
- **SJR-109/AJR-208 (Weinberg, Pou/McKnight, Benson, Vainieri Huttle)** Condemns hate and violent extremism and commits to defense of safe and just democracy
- **A-637/S-2670 (Caputo, Dancer, Houghtaling/Beach)** Revises permit and license processes for sports pools operators and online sports pool operators; revises definitions of certain sports events; allows for transactional waiver for sports wagering lounge
- **A-853/S-797 (Chiaravalloti, Karabinchak, McKnight/Cunningham, Doherty)** Prohibits municipal licensure of children operating temporary businesses
- **A-2311/S-356 (Calabrese, Jasey/Cryan, Codey)** Establishes study commission to examine development of mutually beneficial relationships between institutions of higher education and municipalities
- A-3027/S-793 (Lampitt, Jasey, Houghtaling/Cunningham, Singleton) Commits \$3 million from Supplemental Workforce Fund for Basic Skill to NJ Community College Consortium for Workforce and Economic Development
- ACS for A-3352/S-3504 (Kennedy, Stanley, Calabrese/Smith) Requires certain newly constructed warehouses to be solar-ready buildings

A-3897/S-3263 (Armato, Mazzeo, DiMaso/Beach, Gopal) — Increases fee for New Jersey Waterfowl Stamps

**A-4138/S-2701 (Vainieri Huttle, Benson, Giblin/Gopal, Codey)** – Requires Department of Human Services to develop public emergency response plan for licensed providers of services to individuals with developmental disabilities

**A-4367/S-2794 (Mukherji, Sumter, Taliaferro/Pou, Scutari)** – Provides that AOC shall administer program for municipal courts allowing defendants to engage in online plea negotiations, entry of guilty plea, and payment of fine or penalty

**A-4484/S-3153 (McKnight, Kennedy, Mukherji, Gove/Pou, Vitale)** – Requires State Long-Term Care Ombudsman to establish long-term care advocacy and educational training program

**A-4538/S-3131 (Lampitt, Quijano/Pou, A.M. Bucco)** – Requires dental insurers to provide credits for reduced usage during coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic

**A-4544/S-3150 (Caputo, Jasey, Murphy/Pou, Codey)** – Permits school nurse who is retired from TPAF to return to employment for up to two years without reenrollment in TPAF

**A-4633/S-2856 (Giblin, DeCroce/Pou)** – Permits certain nonresident Certified Public Accountants to provide attest services

A-4831/S-3953 (Chaparro, Kennedy, Murphy/Scutari) – Clarifies classification in this State of criminal offenses committed in other states or under federal law

**A-4836/S-3313 (Giblin, Benson, Downey/Pou, Turner)** – Establishes task force to evaluate quality, efficacy, costs, and educational outcomes of online courses offered by public and independent institutions of higher education and degree-granting proprietary institutions during COVID-19 pandemic

**A-4861/S-3041 (Vainieri Huttle, Armato, Verrelli/Vitale, Gopal)** – Requires DOH to publish total number of COVID-19 deaths and cases in long-term care facilities

**A-4869/S-2414 (Wirths, Verrelli, Space/Singleton, Madden)** – Requires certain bidders for prevailing wage public work to provide proof that prevailing wage will be paid

**A-5059/S-3031 (Conaway, Vainieri Huttle, Benson/Sweeney, Vitale)** – Requires DOH to establish certain nursing education and professional advancement programs

A-5212/S-3638 (Conaway, Verrelli, Karabinchak/Turner, Diegnan) – Permits dentists to administer vaccines under certain circumstances

**A-5751/S-3823 (Swain, Timberlake, Carter, Johnson/Weinberg, Gopal)** – Expands State corrections officers training to include topics contributing to their core mission of treating inmates with dignity, fairness, and respect

A-5817/S-3852 (Tully, Swain, Benson/Lagana, Diegnan) — Revises violation and fines for approving or assigning unauthorized individuals as school bus drivers

A-5818/S-3849 (Tully, Swain, Benson/Lagana, Diegnan) – Provides for debarment of school bus contractors for certain violations; requires certain information in pupil transportation contract bid

AJR-204/SJR-105 (Jasey, Benson, Reynolds-Jackson/Cunningham, T. Kean) – Designates April of each year as "Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) Month" in New Jersey

**AJR-238/SJR-123 (Burzichelli/Sweeney, Singleton)** – Urges U.S. President and EPA to take appropriate action, through waivers and other reforms, to allow blending of renewable fuels under the federal "Clean Air Act"

Governor Murphy conditionally vetoed the following bills:

**S-108/A-169 (Gill, Turner/Caputo, Wirths)** – **CONDITIONAL -** Concerns speech rights of student journalists at public schools and public institutions of higher education

#### Copy of Statement

**S-2078/A-5008 (Weinberg, Addiego/Lampitt, Benson, Vainieri Huttle)** – **CONDITIONAL** - Establishes "Stillbirth Resource Center" and regional Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Committee, and programs for the prevention and reduction of incidences of stillbirth; expands list of professionals authorized to provide stillbirth-related care

#### Copy of Statement

**S-2160/A-5701 (Sweeney, Oroho, Singer/Carter, Lampitt, Jasey)** – **CONDITIONAL -** Creates special education unit within the Office of Administrative Law; requires annual report

#### Copy of Statement

S-2525/A-4274 (Rice, Singleton, Turner/Conaway, Sumter, Stanley) – CONDITIONAL - Expands powers and duties of State Chief Diversity Officer to promote diversity in State government and public contracting

#### Copy of Statement

S-2559/ACS for A-4179 and 4200 (Gopal, Gill/Downey, Conaway, Benson, Houghtaling, Karabinchak) – CONDITIONAL - Revises requirements for health insurance providers and Medicaid to cover services provided using telemedicine and telehealth; appropriates \$5 million

#### Copy of Statement

**S-2834/A-5312 (Ruiz, Cunningham/Quijano, Lampitt, McKnight)** – **CONDITIONAL -** Mandates training on culturally responsive teaching for all candidates for teaching certification

#### Copy of Statement

S-2953/A-4785 (Sweeney, Cunningham/Quijano, Verrelli, Mukherji) – CONDITIONAL - Expands scope of inmate reentry assistance and benefits

#### Copy of Statement

S-3238/A-5213 (Ruiz, Pou/Verrelli, McKnight, McKeon) – CONDITIONAL - Establishes New Jersey Easy Enrollment Health Insurance Program

#### Copy of Statement

S-3488/A-5537 (Sweeney, Gopal, O'Scanlon/Burzichelli, Dancer, Spearman) – CONDITIONAL - Modifies certain procedures pertaining to school district regionalization; establishes grant program for cost reimbursement of conducting regionalization feasibility studies; and provides financial incentives for regionalization

#### Copy of Statement

S-3867/A-5868 (Addiego, Singleton/Benson, Verrelli, Vainieri Huttle) – CONDITIONAL - Establishes Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund and Opioid Recovery and Remediation Fund Advisory Council; provides for funds received from opioid settlements to support substance use disorder prevention and treatment programs

#### Copy of Statement

S-3955/A-5905 (Ruiz/Timberlake, Speight, Spearman) – CONDITIONAL - Establishes "Rental Assistance Navigation Program" in DCA; makes appropriation

#### Copy of Statement

A-1533/S-3321 (Spearman, Reynolds-Jackson, Schaer/Stack, Turner) – CONDITIONAL - Requires reservation of portion of tenant-based vouchers under State rental assistance program for persons displaced due to redevelopment of an affordable housing development; provides displaced persons with affordable housing priority status

#### Copy of Statement

**A-2455/S-2204 (Benson, Vainieri Huttle, DeAngelo/Greenstein, Oroho)** – **CONDITIONAL -** Establishes pilot program in DOE to support FIRST Robotics Programs in school districts

#### Copy of Statement

A-3062/S-1196 (Pintor Marin, Moen, Reynolds-Jackson/Pou, Cruz-Perez) - CONDITIONAL

- Establishes three year Financial Empowerment Pilot Program

#### Copy of Statement

**A-4002/S-2257 (Caputo, Dancer, Murphy/Gopal, Sarlo)** – **CONDITIONAL -** Allows deduction of promotional gaming credit from gross revenue on sports wagering

#### Copy of Statement

**A-4433/S-2715 (Greenwald, Mukherji, Lampitt/Beach, Corrado) – CONDITIONAL** - Creates grant program to encourage school districts to partner with institutions of higher education in training school-based mental health services providers

#### Copy of Statement

A-4435/S-2717 (Verrelli, Greenwald, Speight, Lampitt/Beach, Corrado) – CONDITIONAL - Requires DCF to give priority to certain school districts with student mental health counseling centers in awarding grants under School Based Youth Services Program

#### Copy of Statement

**A-4630/S-577 (Burzichelli/Madden, Singleton) – CONDITIONAL** - Concerns labor harmony agreements in retail and distribution center projects

#### Copy of Statement

**A-4746/S-3947 (Mosquera, Lopez, Chaparro, Dunn/Vitale, Turner)** – **CONDITIONAL** - Requires that certain provider subsidy payments for child care services be based on enrollment

#### Copy of Statement

A-4834/S-3474 (Mazzeo, Quijano, Downey/Pou, Turner) – CONDITIONAL - Requires disclosure letter be included with mail falsely implying State government connection

#### Copy of Statement

A-4850/S-3095 (Karabinchak, Freiman, Calabrese, Greenwald/Diegnan) – CONDITIONAL - Establishes expedited construction inspection program

#### Copy of Statement

**A-5033/S-3279 (Benson, Dancer, Verrelli/Gopal)** – **CONDITIONAL -** Authorizes motor vehicle dealers to sell motor vehicles online and obtain electronic signatures for motor vehicle transactions

#### Copy of Statement

A-5353/S-3421 (Conaway, Vainieri Huttle, Benson/Madden, Turner) – CONDITIONAL - Provides for certification of temporary nurse aides

#### Copy of Statement

**A-5599/S-3916 (Chiaravalloti, Vainieri Huttle, McKnight/Scutari, Gill)** – **CONDITIONAL -** Establishes order of protection for current or former judge; upgrades and clarifies harassment against current or former judge; bars firearms possession by persons against whom current or former judge order of protection is entered

#### Copy of Statement

A-5864/S-3939 (Speight, Pintor Marin, Chaparro, McKnight, DeAngelo, Bergen/Gopal, Cryan) – CONDITIONAL - Allows law enforcement officers to review body worn camera recordings prior to creating initial report

Copy of Statement

Governor Murphy absolute vetoed the following bills:

**S-415/A-4685 (Turner/Quijano, Verrelli)** – **ABSOLUTE -** Requires reentry assistance to be provided to certain inmates who have served their maximum sentence

Copy of Statement

S-969/ACS for A-2687 (Ruiz, Turner/Mazzeo, Lampitt, Moen) – CONDITIONAL - Establishes loan redemption program for teachers in certain fields to redeem loan amounts received under New Jersey College Loans to Assist State Students Loan Program through employment in certain low performing schools

Copy of Statement

S-2261/A-4265 (Singleton/Conaway) – ABSOLUTE - Revises law relating to common interest communities

Copy of Statement

S-2347/A-4030 (Sweeney, Greenstein, T. Kean/Mukherji, Benson, Murphy) – ABSOLUTE - Establishes Employment and Business-Related Tax Deferral Assistance Program in EDA to allow small businesses to defer the payment and remittance of certain employment and business-related taxes during COVID-19 public health emergency

Copy of Statement

S-3093/A-4910 (Gopal, Sweeney, Singleton/Burzichelli, Johnson, Danielsen) – ABSOLUTE - Establishes county-based mitigation plan to allow businesses to operate during pandemic

Copy of Statement

S-3505/A-5371 (Scutari, Weinberg/Mukherji, Johnson, Quijano) – ABSOLUTE - Requires assignment of unemployment claims handlers to legislative districts and partisan offices during COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency; appropriates \$1.8 million

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S-3868/A-5895 (Sarlo/Giblin) - ABSOLUTE - Concerns construction code enforcing agency fee revenue

Copy of Statement

**A-2722/S-1862 (Mukherji/Gopal, Oroho)** – **ABSOLUTE -** Requires Commissioner of Corrections to institute 30-minute shift overlap in State correctional facilities

Copy of Statement

A-4297/S-2631 (Houghtaling, Downey, Space/Gopal, Oroho) – ABSOLUTE - Permits conduct of bingos and raffles remotely; permits online sale of tickets for all bingos and raffles

Copy of Statement

A-5231/S-3806 (Lopez, Coughlin, Freiman/Vitale) – ABSOLUTE - Allows county or municipal governing body to enter into revenue sharing agreement for alcoholic beverage sales by concessionaire permit holder

Copy of Statement