Sponsored by:
Senator RICHARD J. CODEY
District 27 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS
Requires Division of Mental Health Services to identify available mental health services and perform needs assessment.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As introduced.
AN ACT concerning services for persons with mental illness and
supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

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

1. The Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Mental
Health Services in the Department of Human Services shall:
   a. prepare an inventory of all public and private inpatient,
      outpatient and residential behavioral health services in the State, by
      county and by service area served, if applicable, including the
      number of treatment beds or treatment capacity of the service, and
      make the inventory available to the public, upon request;
   b. establish and implement a methodology, based on nationally
      recognized criteria, to quantify the usage of and need for inpatient,
      outpatient, and residential behavioral health services throughout the
      State, taking into account projected patient care level needs;
   c. annually assess whether sufficient inpatient, outpatient, and
      residential behavioral health services are available in each service
      area of the State, based on the estimated need for such services, in
      order to ensure timely access to appropriate behavioral health
      services for persons who are voluntarily admitted or involuntarily
      committed to inpatient facilities for persons with mental illness in
      the State, and for persons who need behavioral health services
      provided by outpatient and community-based programs that support
      the wellness and recovery for these persons;
   d. annually identify how the necessary funding for existing and
      new programs and services will be provided;
   e. develop procedures to coordinate programs, services, and
      planning activities with the Division of Child Behavioral Health in
      the Department of Children and Families, the Divisions of
      Developmental Disabilities and Addiction Services in the
      Department of Human Services, the Department of Corrections, the
      Department of Health and Senior Services, and such other
      governmental agencies and task forces that address the needs of
      consumers of mental health services and their families, as the
      assistant commissioner deems appropriate;
   f. consult with the New Jersey Hospital Association, the
      Hospital Alliance of New Jersey, and the New Jersey Council of
      Teaching Hospitals in carrying out the purposes of this act. The
      division shall also seek input from Statewide organizations that
      advocate for persons with mental illness and their families; and
   g. annually report his findings and recommendations to the
      Governor and to the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior
      Citizens Committee and the Assembly Human Services Committee,
      or their successor committees. The first report shall be provided no
      later than 12 months after the effective date of this act.
2. This act shall take effect on the 60th day following enactment.

STATEMENT

This bill requires the Assistant Commissioner of the Division of Mental Health Services in the Department of Human Services to:

- prepare an inventory of all public and private inpatient, outpatient and residential behavioral health services in the State, by county and by service area served, if applicable, including the number of treatment beds or treatment capacity of the service, and make the inventory available to the public, upon request;
- establish and implement a methodology, based on nationally recognized criteria, to quantify the usage of and need for inpatient, outpatient, and residential behavioral health services throughout the State, taking into account projected patient care level needs;
- annually assess whether sufficient inpatient, outpatient, and residential behavioral health services are available in each service area of the State, based on the estimated need for such services, in order to ensure timely access to appropriate behavioral health services for persons who are voluntarily admitted or involuntarily committed to inpatient facilities for persons with mental illness in the State, and for persons who need behavioral health services provided by outpatient and community-based programs that support the wellness and recovery for these persons;
- annually identify how the necessary funding for existing and new programs and services will be provided;
- develop procedures to coordinate programs, services, and planning activities with the Division of Child Behavioral Health in the Department of Children and Families, the Divisions of Developmental Disabilities and Addiction Services in the Department of Human Services, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Health and Senior Services, and such other governmental agencies and task forces that address the needs of consumers of mental health services and their families, as the assistant commissioner deems appropriate;
- consult with the New Jersey Hospital Association, the Hospital Alliance of New Jersey, and the New Jersey Council of Teaching Hospitals in carrying out the purposes of this bill. The assistant commissioner shall also seek input from Statewide organizations that advocate for persons with mental illness and their families; and
annually report his findings and recommendations to the Governor and to the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee and the Assembly Human Services Committee, or their successor committees. The first report shall be provided no later than 12 months after the effective date of this bill.

The bill takes effect on the 60th day following enactment.