

# SENATE, No. 160

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator GERALD CARDINALE**

**District 39 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Singer**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires certain facilities to develop cohorting plan to address outbreak of contagious disease.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning contagious diseases and supplementing Title 26  
2 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. As used in this act, "long-term care facility" means a  
8 nursing home, assisted living residence, comprehensive personal  
9 care home, residential health care facility, or dementia care home  
10 licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.).

11 b. Notwithstanding any law, rule, regulation, or order to the  
12 contrary, a long-term care facility shall develop and implement a  
13 plan, to be submitted to and approved by the Department of Health,  
14 in a manner to be determined by the Department of Health, to  
15 cohort at-risk patients in the event of an outbreak of a life-  
16 threatening, contagious disease, or of a similar health emergency at  
17 the facility, until the cessation of the outbreak or emergency, and to  
18 meet staffing and facility demands as are necessary to implement  
19 the plan to cohort at-risk patients.

20 c. The Department of Health shall not issue a license to a long-  
21 term care facility unless the facility has fulfilled the requirements of  
22 subsection b. of this section. A long-term care facility that is  
23 licensed by the Department of Health on or before the effective date  
24 of this act shall fulfill the requirements of subsection b. of this  
25 section within 180 days of the effective date of this act as a  
26 condition of the long-term care facility's licensure.

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28 2. The Department of Health shall, pursuant to the  
29 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
30 seq.), adopt rules or regulations as are necessary to effectuate the  
31 provisions of this act.

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33 3. This act shall take effect 180 days after the date of  
34 enactment.

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STATEMENT

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39 This bill requires certain facilities to develop a cohorting plan to  
40 address an outbreak of a contagious disease. Under the bill, a long-  
41 term care facility is to develop and implement a plan, to be  
42 submitted to and approved by the Department of Health, in a  
43 manner to be determined by the Department of Health, to cohort at-  
44 risk patients in the event of an outbreak of a life-threatening,  
45 contagious disease, or of a similar health emergency at the facility,  
46 until the cessation of the outbreak or emergency, and to meet

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1 staffing and facility demands as are necessary to implement the plan  
2 to cohort at-risk patients.

3 The bill provides that the Department of Health is not to issue a  
4 license to a long-term care facility unless the facility has complied  
5 with the bill's provisions. A long-term care facility that is licensed  
6 by the Department of Health on or before the effective date of this  
7 bill is to comply with the bill's provisions within 180 days of the  
8 effective date of this act as a condition of the facility's licensure.