

ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5341

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 18, 2023

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5341.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 5341 establishes the Law Enforcement Critical Mental Health Assistance Grant Program.

This bill establishes the Law Enforcement Critical Mental Health Assistance Grant Program in the Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program is to award grants to mental health providers to provide confidential mental health services to law enforcement officers or members of their immediate families who are in a mental health crisis or suicidal.

Under the bill, the Commissioner of Human Services is required to develop an application by which a mental health services provider may apply for a grant for funding to provide mental health services pursuant to the provisions of the bill. The commissioner is required to establish selection criteria for the awarding of grants under the program. The bill provides that consideration is to be given to the geographical location of mental health providers and the areas where they provide services in order to facilitate patients, to the greatest extent possible, traveling less than one hour to receive mental health services.

Under the bill, the commissioner is to provide notice of the availability of funding for this program and make the application available on the department's Internet website. Upon receipt of an application, the commissioner is required to review the application and, subject to the availability of funds, award a grant to each approved grant applicant. Additionally, under the bill, the commissioner is required to publish a list of approved mental health providers on the department's Internet website.