

# SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 2624**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: DECEMBER 18, 2023

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2624.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill prohibits the disclosure of personal information pertaining to certain health care workers who are assaulted by a patient or resident of a health care facility to prevent further violence, threats or intimidation against the victim.

Specifically, the provisions of the amended bill prohibit the disclosure of the name and address of a victim of an alleged simple assault, aggravated assault, sexual assault, or aggravated sexual assault on a report, statement, court document, indictment, or complaint if the actor is a patient or resident at a health care facility and the victim is: 1) a health care worker employed by a licensed health care facility to provide direct patient care; 2) a health care professional licensed or otherwise authorized pursuant to Title 26 or Title 45 of the Revised Statutes to practice a health care profession; or 3) a direct care worker at a State or county psychiatric hospital or State developmental center or veterans' memorial home. The amended bill would require this information to be omitted or redacted from the document.

The amended bill also requires that any report, statement, court document, indictment, or complaint which states the name or address of a victim be kept confidential and unavailable to the public. Unless authorized pursuant to a court order, any person who purposefully discloses, releases, or otherwise makes available to the public any of these documents would be subject to a civil penalty of \$100 for each document disclosed in violation of the provisions of this bill.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) clarify that the provisions of the bill apply when a healthcare worker is an alleged victim of simple or aggravated assault pursuant to N.J.S.2C:12-1, or sexual assault or aggravated sexual assault pursuant to N.J.S.2C:14-2;

(2) require only the name and address of a health care worker who is a victim under the bill to be kept confidential in any report, statement, court document, indictment, or complaint; as introduced, the victim's identity also was to be kept confidential and disclosure in all other public records was prohibited;

(3) provide that a person who violates the provisions of the bill is subject to a civil penalty of \$100 for each violation; as introduced, a violation was a disorderly persons offense; and

(4) make technical changes to the bill.