

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1173**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ANDREW ZWICKER**

**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

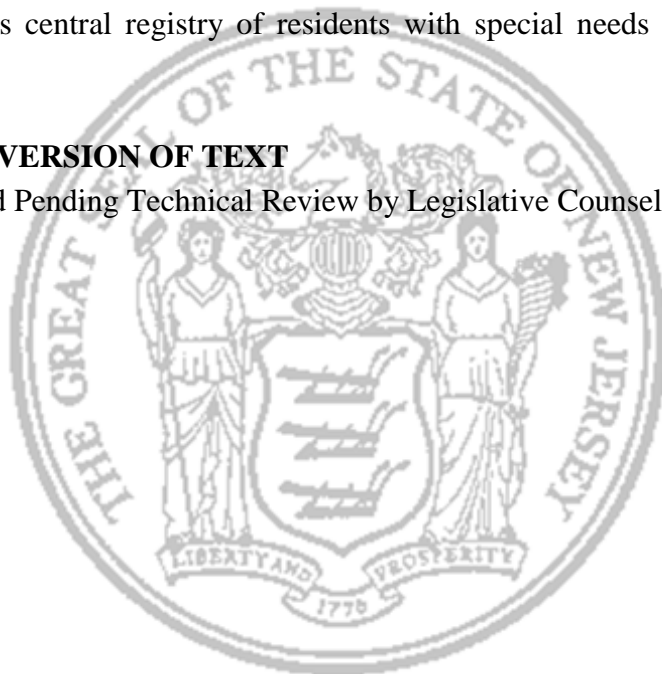
**Assemblyman Coughlin**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes central registry of residents with special needs for use during emergencies.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



A1173 ZWICKER, PINKIN

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1 AN ACT concerning a central registry of residents with special  
2 needs for use in an emergency and supplementing P.L.1989, c.3  
3 (C.52:17C-1 et seq.).  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:  
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8 1. a. The Office of Emergency Telecommunications Services  
9 in the Office of Information Technology shall establish a central  
10 registry of residents with special needs who require additional  
11 assistance provided to them during an emergency. The office shall  
12 maintain the central registry created pursuant to this section, which  
13 shall be composed of information voluntarily provided by each  
14 registrant including, but not limited to, the registrant's address,  
15 telephone number, and particular condition or assistance needs.

16 b. The office shall provide to each municipal, county, and  
17 regional police department, fire department, and emergency service  
18 organization a list of residents with special needs that have  
19 registered with the central registry and who reside in a municipality,  
20 county, or region that the police department, fire department, or  
21 emergency service organization serves.

22 c. The office shall conduct a public awareness campaign,  
23 utilizing the Internet and any other available resources, to inform  
24 the public of the importance of identifying and registering  
25 individuals with special needs prior to an emergency so that  
26 appropriate preparations may be made to ensure that these  
27 individuals receive necessary assistance during an emergency.

28 d. Municipal, county, and regional police departments, fire  
29 departments, and emergency service organizations shall use  
30 information collected for purposes of a central registry created  
31 pursuant to this section to prepare for and provide assistance to  
32 residents with special needs when responding to 9-1-1 calls and  
33 other emergencies, and shall not otherwise divulge or make the  
34 information publicly available.

35 e. The Director of the State Office of Emergency Management,  
36 at the director's discretion, may access and obtain information from  
37 the central registry to prepare an Emergency Operations Plan  
38 required pursuant to section 19 of P.L.1989, c.222 (C.App.A:9-  
39 43.2).

40 f. The central registry maintained by the office and any  
41 information contained therein, or accessed and provided to  
42 municipal, county, and regional police departments, fire  
43 departments, and emergency service organizations in accordance  
44 with subsection b. of this section, or accessed and provided to the  
45 Director of the State Office of Emergency Management in  
46 accordance with subsection e. of this section, shall not be included  
47 under materials available for public inspection pursuant to

1 P.L.1963, c.73 (C.47:1A-1 et seq.) or P.L.2001, c.404 (C.47:1A-  
2 5 et al.).

3 g. The provisions of this section shall not limit the ability of a  
4 county to establish its own central registry of residents with special  
5 needs who require additional assistance provided to them during an  
6 emergency pursuant to section 6 of P.L.2011, c.178 (C.App.A:9-  
7 43.13).

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9 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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14 This bill requires the Office of Emergency Telecommunications  
15 Services ("office") in the Office of Information Technology to  
16 establish a central registry of residents with special needs who  
17 require additional assistance provided to them during an emergency.  
18 The bill enables residents to voluntarily register individuals with  
19 special needs with the office and provide the registrant's address,  
20 telephone number, and particular condition or assistance needs.

21 The bill requires the office to provide to each municipal, county,  
22 and regional police department, fire department, and emergency  
23 service organization a list of residents with special needs that have  
24 registered with the central registry and who reside in a jurisdiction  
25 that the department or organization serves. Municipal, county, and  
26 regional police departments, fire departments, and emergency  
27 service organizations are directed to use information collected for  
28 the central registry to assist residents with special needs when  
29 responding to 9-1-1 calls and other emergencies. The Director of  
30 the State Office of Emergency Management may access and obtain  
31 information from the central registry to prepare an Emergency  
32 Operations Plan. Under the bill, the office may only divulge the  
33 information collected to municipal, county, and regional police  
34 departments, fire departments, and emergency service organizations  
35 and the Director of the State Office of Emergency Management.

36 The bill also directs the office to conduct a public awareness  
37 campaign, utilizing the Internet and any other available resources,  
38 to inform the public of the importance of identifying and registering  
39 individuals with special needs prior to an emergency so that  
40 appropriate preparations may be made to ensure that these  
41 individuals receive necessary assistance during an emergency.