

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4618

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2023

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4618.

This bill creates an online job portal for behavioral health care workers and online internship and externship portal for health care students.

Under the bill, the Department of Health (department) is to create, maintain, and update, as appropriate, an online job portal, in the form of an Internet website, which permits in-State employers to post job openings for behavioral health care workers. Further, the department is to create, maintain, and update, as appropriate, a separate online internship and externship portal, in the form of an Internet website, which permits in-State employers to post internship and externship openings that are eligible to provide academic credits for students who are studying to become a health care professional licensed under Title 45 of the Revised Statutes or to provide credits toward licensure or completion of a program. The department may contract with a third-party to develop and administer the online job portal and online internship and externship portal as necessary.

Under the bill, “behavioral health care” means health care and associated services, which are provided to a patient for the treatment of a mental illness, emotional disorder, or drug or alcohol use that is of mild to moderate severity. “Behavioral health care” does not include health care that is provided for the treatment of severe mental illness, severe emotional disorder, or severe drug or alcohol use or primary care.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that the department will incur annual indeterminate costs to fulfill the provisions of the bill regarding an online job portal for behavioral health care workers and an online internship and externship portal for behavioral health care students.

It is possible that costs under the bill can be reduced if the department develops the portals in-house or collaborates with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, which currently administers an online job posting and search platform for employers and prospective employees. If the department contracts with another

third party vendor to develop and administer the online portals, as permitted under the bill, annual costs could be higher.