

2021 NJPA Legislator of the Year

Senator Vin Gopal



Bio:

Vin Gopal is a lifelong resident of Monmouth County, born at Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune and raised in Freehold. He is proud to be a small-business owner, having built his business from the ground up, now with 14 employees. Vin is also the Founder and President of a 501c(3) organization dedicated to helping Monmouth County charities and individuals in need. He holds a Masters in Public Administration from Rutgers University. He previously served on the Board of Directors for the then-Monmouth County Chamber of Commerce, and also served as President of the Hazlet Township Business Owners Association. He is also a past Board of Trustees Member of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Monmouth County. Vin spent many years as a volunteer first responder, serving as an EMT and certified CPR Instructor.

Vin serves as Senate Majority Conference Leader and Chairman of the Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee. He also serves as Vice-Chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee and as a member of the Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee.

During his first term in the State Senate, Vin has worked tirelessly across party-lines to champion the causes of working families in Monmouth County, small-business owners, students and seniors. He has pushed for successful funding for Monmouth County schools, women's healthcare facilities, mental health support along with many other key areas of funding support. He has also had a number of tax relief and shared-services bills signed into law and successfully fought party leadership from instituting a shore rental tax.

Legislation:

S-113 Prohibits attempts by mental health professionals to change sexual orientation of adults.

S-754 Establishes program allowing NJ licensed drivers to self-identify as having been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

S-820 Revises certain aspects of out-of-network arbitration process under the “Out-of-network Consumer Protection, Transparency, Cost Containment and Accountability Act.”

S-2490 Requires health care facilities to screen health care workers, first responders, and other frontline workers for symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder related to COVID-19 pandemic.

S-2506 Enters New Jersey into Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact.

S-2559 Revises requirements for health insurance providers and Medicaid to cover services provided using telemedicine and telehealth.

S-2581 Requires police training for interactions with persons who may have behavioral health issues.

S-2582 Revises psychologist training requirements. *Signed into law.*

S-2599 Establishes telephone hotline and secure web portal for reporting incidents of inappropriate sexual conduct by persons in certain positions of authority or trust.

S-2648 Requires suicide prevention training for mental health practitioners.

S-3111 Requires health insurance carriers to categorize mental health treatment and therapy received by victim of domestic violence as medically necessary treatment and provide full benefits coverage therefor.

S-3127 Requires institutions of higher education to provide students with access to mental health care programs and services and to establish a hotline to provide information concerning the availability of those services.

S-3147 Revises definition of domestic violence to include psychological abuse and economic abuse.

S-3179 Requires health insurance carriers to provide coverage for treatment of mental health conditions and substance use disorders through collaborative care.

S-3500 Establishes Core Behavioral Health Crisis Services System.