

ASSEMBLY, No. 2204

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 209th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 16, 2000

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman FRANCIS J. BLEE

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblyman JOSEPH CHARLES, JR.

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

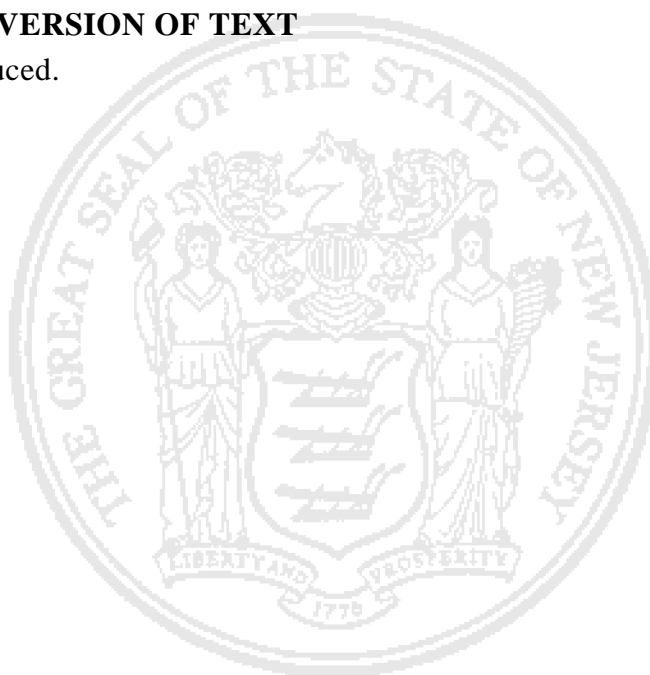
Assemblywomen Previte, Farragher, Senators Allen, Codey, Bucco, Kosco, Singer, Inverso, Robertson, Sinagra, Matheussen, McNamara, Cafiero, Bennett, Bark, Palaia, Kavanaugh, Bassano, Baer, Turner and Rice

SYNOPSIS

Renames Office on Minority Health in DHSS as Office on Multicultural Health and provides additional responsibilities for office.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/5/2000)

1 AN ACT concerning multicultural health and amending P.L.1991,
2 c.401.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 1 of P.L.1991, c.401 (C.26:2-160) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

10 **[there]** a. There are dramatic differences in death, disease and
11 injury rates between White and racial and ethnic minority populations
12 in the State~~].~~ For example, the non-White infant mortality rate in
13 1987 was 18.7 per 1,000 live births, whereas the rate for White infants
14 was 7.1; esophageal cancer death rates among Black males are three
15 times greater than among White males; of the cumulative total of
16 AIDS cases reported in 1988 in the State, 34% were White, 52%
17 Black and 13% Hispanic; Black and Hispanic women represent 77%
18 of all female AIDS cases in the State; and chemical poisonings among
19 the employed Black population are almost three times greater than that
20 of the employed White population, as measured by the frequency of
21 hospitalization.

22 The Legislature further finds and declares that presently there is
23 no~~],~~ with especially wide and persistent disparities in the incidence of
24 cancer, cardiovascular disease and stroke, chemical dependency,
25 diabetes, homicide, suicide, accidental injury, infant mortality, and
26 HIV/AIDS;

27 b. There is a clear need for a continuous and coordinated State
28 effort to address the wide disparity in death, disease and injury rates
29 ~~[and, therefore, there is a need to establish a]~~ through a New Jersey
30 Office on Multicultural Health, renamed from the New Jersey Office
31 on Minority Health established pursuant to P.L.1991, c.401 (C.26:2-
32 160 et seq.); and

33 c. The New Jersey Office on Multicultural Health shall seek to
34 identify and develop innovative projects which will close the gap
35 between the health status of White and racial and ethnic minority
36 populations in this State, and to coordinate current State programs
37 which seek to address minority racial and ethnic health concerns, with
38 the ultimate goal of enabling all members of racial and ethnic minority
39 and gender populations in this State to have access to high-quality
40 health care.

41 (cf: P.L.1991, c.401, s.1)

42
43 2. Section 2 of P.L.1991, c.401 (C.26:2-161) is amended to read

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 as follows:

2 2. a. There is established the New Jersey Office on [Minority]
3 Multicultural Health in the Department of Health and Senior Services.

4 b. Whenever the term "New Jersey Office on Minority Health"
5 occurs or any reference is made thereto in any law, contract or
6 document, the same shall be deemed to mean or refer to the "New
7 Jersey Office on Multicultural Health."

8 (cf: P.L.1991, c.401, s.2)

9

10 3. Section 3 of P.L.1991, c.401 (C.26:2-162) is amended to read
11 as follows:

12 3. The office shall:

13 a. Provide grants to community-based organizations to conduct
14 special research, demonstration and evaluation projects for targeted
15 at-risk racial and ethnic minority and gender populations;

16 b. Develop and implement model public and private partnerships
17 in racial and ethnic minority communities for health awareness
18 campaigns and to improve the access, acceptability and use of public
19 health services;

20 c. Serve as an information and resource center for racial and ethnic
21 minority and gender specific health information and data and develop
22 a clearinghouse to collect data on a county-by-county basis and
23 disseminate it upon request to interested parties;

24 d. Review, recommend and develop culturally appropriate health
25 education materials;

26 e. Provide assistance to local school districts to develop programs
27 in elementary and secondary schools which stress good nutrition and
28 healthy lifestyles;

29 f. Function as an advocate for the adoption and implementation of
30 effective measures to improve [minority] the health of racial and
31 ethnic minority and gender populations in this State and lead to the
32 elimination of disparities among the various racial and ethnic
33 populations of this State and gender-based disparities with respect to
34 access to high-quality health care and health status;

35 g. Improve existing data systems to ensure that the health
36 information that is collected includes specific race and ethnicity
37 identifiers;

38 h. Review the programs of the Departments of Health and Senior
39 Services, Human Services, Community Affairs and Education and any
40 other department of State government, as appropriate, that concern
41 multicultural or minority health and make recommendations to the
42 departments that will enable them to better coordinate and improve the
43 effectiveness of their efforts; [and]

44 i. [Within 18 months of the effective date of this act, develop]
45 Develop a Statewide plan for increasing the number of racial and
46 ethnic minority health care professionals which includes

1 recommendations for the financing mechanisms and recruitment
2 strategies necessary to carry out the plan;

3 j. Study and make recommendations regarding the training of
4 health care professionals in the provision of culturally competent
5 health care, including, but not limited to, recommendations for the
6 adoption of cultural competency courses by colleges of medicine and
7 dentistry in this State that are designed to address the problem of race,
8 ethnicity and gender-based disparities in health care treatment
9 decisions;

10 k. Develop recommendations for the most effective means of
11 providing outreach to racial and ethnic minority communities
12 throughout the State to ensure their maximum participation in publicly
13 funded health benefits programs;

14 l. Seek to establish a Statewide alliance with community-based
15 agencies and organizations, health care facilities, health care provider
16 organizations and pharmaceutical manufacturers to promote the
17 objectives of the office; and

18 m. Evaluate multicultural or racial and ethnic minority health
19 programs in other states to assess their efficacy and potential for
20 replication in this State and make recommendations regarding the
21 adoption of such programs, as appropriate.

22 (cf: P.L.1991, c.401, s.3)

23

24 4. Section 4 of P.L.1991, c.401 (C.26:2-163) is amended to read
25 as follows:

26 4. The office is authorized to:

27 a. Adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the "Administrative
28 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), concerning the
29 operation of the office and other matters that may be necessary to
30 carry out the purposes of this act;

31 b. Maintain offices at such places within the State as it may
32 designate;

33 c. Employ a director and other personnel as may be necessary. The
34 director shall be appointed by the Commissioner of Health and Senior
35 Services and shall serve at the pleasure of the commissioner during the
36 commissioner's term of office and until the appointment and
37 qualification of the director's successor. The director shall devote his
38 entire time to the duties of the position and shall receive a salary as
39 provided by law;

40 d. Apply for and accept any grant of money from the federal
41 government, private foundations or other sources, which may be
42 available for programs related to multicultural or minority health;

43 e. Serve as the designated State agency for receipt of federal funds
44 specifically designated for multicultural or racial and ethnic minority
45 health programs; and

1 f. Enter into contracts with individuals, organizations, and
2 institutions necessary for the performance of its duties under this act.
3 (cf: P.L.1991, c.401, s.4)

4
5 5. Section 5 of P.L.1991, c.401 (C.26:2-164) is amended to read
6 as follows:

7 5. There is established a New Jersey Office on [Minority]
8 Multicultural Health Advisory Commission.

9 The commission shall consist of nine members, including the
10 Commissioner of Health and Senior Services or his designee, who shall
11 serve ex officio, and eight public members who are residents of the
12 State and who shall be appointed as follows: one member who is a
13 health care professional shall be appointed by the President of the
14 Senate; one member who is a health care professional shall be
15 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and six members,
16 at least two of whom are health care professionals, at least one of
17 whom represents health care facilities and at least one of whom
18 represents the health insurance industry, shall be appointed by the
19 Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

20 The term of office of each public member shall be three years, but
21 of the members first appointed, two shall be appointed for a term of
22 one year, three shall be appointed for a term of two years and three
23 shall be appointed for a term of three years. A member shall hold
24 office for the term of his appointment and until his successor has been
25 appointed and qualified. All vacancies shall be filled for the balance
26 of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.
27 A member of the commission is eligible for reappointment.

28 The public members of the commission shall not receive any
29 compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for the actual
30 and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as
31 members of the commission, within the limits of funds available to the
32 commission.

33 The members of the commission shall annually elect a chairman and
34 a vice-chairman from among the public members and may select a
35 secretary, who need not be a member of the commission.

36 The New Jersey Office on [Minority] Multicultural Health shall
37 provide such staff and assistance as the commission requires to carry
38 out its work.

39 (cf: P.L.1991, c.401, s.5)

40
41 6. Section 6 of P.L.1991, c.401 (C.26:2-165) is amended to read
42 as follows:

43 6. The advisory commission shall:

44 a. Review and make recommendations to the New Jersey Office on
45 [Minority] Multicultural Health on any rules, regulations and policies
46 proposed by the office;

1 b. Advise the office on the awarding of grants and development of
2 programs and services required pursuant to this act;

3 c. Advise the office on the needs, priorities, programs and policies
4 relating to multicultural or racial and ethnic minority health in this
5 State; and

6 d. Provide any other assistance to the office, as may be requested
7 by the director.

8 The commission may accept from any governmental department or
9 agency, public or private body or any other source grants or
10 contributions to be used in carrying out its responsibilities under this
11 act.

12 (cf: P.L.1991, c.401, s.6)

13
14 7. Section 8 of P.L.1991, c.401 (C.26:2-167) is amended to read
15 as follows:

16 8. The office is entitled to call to its assistance, and avail itself of,
17 the services of employees of any State, county or municipal
18 department, board, bureau, commission or agency as it may require
19 and as may be available to it for its purposes. All departments,
20 agencies and divisions are authorized and directed, to the extent not
21 inconsistent with law, to cooperate with the New Jersey Office on
22 [Minority] Multicultural Health.

23 (cf: P.L.1991, c.401, s.8)

24
25 8. This act shall take effect immediately.
26
27

28 STATEMENT
29

30 This bill renames the New Jersey Office on Minority Health in the
31 Department of Health and Senior Services, which was established
32 pursuant to P.L.1991, c.401 (N.J.S.A.26:2-160 et seq.), as the New
33 Jersey Office on Multicultural Health.

34 The bill also provides explicit statutory authority for the office to
35 carry out additional responsibilities beyond those currently outlined in
36 P.L.1991, c.401. These include:

37 C development of a clearinghouse to collect racial and ethnic
38 minority and gender specific health data on a county-by-county
39 basis and disseminate it upon request to interested parties;

40 C advocating effective measures to lead to the elimination of
41 disparities among the various racial and ethnic populations of this
42 State and gender-based disparities with respect to access to high-
43 quality health care and health status;

44 C studying and making recommendations regarding the training of
45 health care professionals in the provision of culturally competent
46 health care, including, but not limited to, recommendations for the

1 adoption of cultural competency courses by colleges of medicine
2 and dentistry in this State that are designed to address the problem
3 of race, ethnic and gender-based disparities in health care treatment
4 decisions;
5 C development of recommendations for the most effective means of
6 providing outreach to racial and ethnic minority communities
7 throughout the State to ensure their maximum participation in
8 publicly funded health benefits programs;
9 C seeking to establish a Statewide alliance with community-based
10 agencies and organizations, health care facilities, health care
11 provider organizations and pharmaceutical manufacturers to
12 promote the objectives of the office; and
13 C evaluating multicultural or racial and ethnic minority health
14 programs in other states to assess their efficacy and potential for
15 replication in this State and making recommendations regarding the
16 adoption of such programs, as appropriate.