

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2204

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 3, 2001

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2204 (1R).

Assembly Bill No. 2204 (1R) renames the New Jersey Office on Minority Health in the Department of Health and Senior Services, established pursuant to P.L.1991, c.401 (N.J.S.A.26:2-160 et seq.), as the New Jersey Office on Minority and Multicultural Health.

The bill also provides explicit statutory authority for the office to carry out additional responsibilities beyond those currently outlined in statute. These include:

Proposed changes. The bill would effect the following changes:

(1) clarifying that the population that the Office is to serve includes both racial and ethnic minorities, and the ultimate goal of the Office is to foster minority access to high-quality health care.

(2) enhancing the Office's powers and duties by allowing the Office to make grants to ongoing community-based programs, as well as special projects, and extending its informational function to include development of a clearinghouse that would collate and organize minority health data by county and disseminate the data on request.

(3) conferring new responsibilities on the Office, including working with medical and dental schools; making recommendations on effective outreach to increase minority communities' participation, establishing an alliance with community-based agencies and evaluating minority health programs in other states for their potential replication in New Jersey.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The bill appropriates \$1.5 million from the General Fund to the Office on Minority and Multicultural Health to carry out the work of the Office and to implement its added responsibilities under the legislation. The bill also specifies that it is the intent of the Legislature in succeeding fiscal years, that \$1.5 million be appropriated to the Office, and that this amount shall be in addition to any amounts allocated to the Office from amounts appropriated in the FY2001 annual appropriations act.