

P.L. 2001, CHAPTER 205, *approved August 8, 2001*
Assembly, No. 2204 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning ¹minority and¹ multicultural health ¹[and] ¹
2 amending ¹the title and body of¹ P.L.1991, c.401 ¹and making an
3 appropriation¹.

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

7
8 ¹1. The title of P.L.1991, c.401 is amended to read as follows:
9 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Office on Minority and
10 Multicultural Health.¹
11 (cf: P.L.1991, c.401, title)

12
13 ¹[1.] ²2.¹ Section 1 of P.L.1991, c.401 (C.26:2-160) is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

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

28 The Legislature further finds and declares that presently there is
29 no], with especially wide and persistent disparities in the incidence of
30 cancer, cardiovascular disease and stroke, chemical dependency,
31 diabetes, ¹asthma,¹ homicide, suicide, accidental injury, infant
32 mortality, ¹child immunization rates¹ and HIV/AIDS;

33 b. There is a clear need for a ¹[continuous and coordinated]
34 collaborative¹ State effort to address the wide disparity in death,
35 disease and injury rates [and, therefore, there is a need to establish a]
36 through a New Jersey Office on ¹Minority and¹ Multicultural Health,
37 renamed from the New Jersey Office on Minority Health established
38 pursuant to P.L.1991, c.401 (C.26:2-160 et seq.); and

39 c. The New Jersey Office on ¹Minority and¹ Multicultural Health
40 shall seek to identify and develop innovative projects which will

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate floor amendments adopted December 4, 2000.

1 ¹[close] eliminate¹ the gap between the health status of White and
2 racial and ethnic minority populations in this State, and to coordinate
3 current State programs which seek to address minority racial and
4 ethnic health concerns, with the ultimate goal of enabling all members
5 of racial and ethnic minority ¹[and gender]¹ populations in this State
6 to have access to high-quality health care.

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

8

9 ¹[2.] 3.¹ Section 2 of P.L.1991, c.401 (C.26:2-161) is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 2. a. There is established the New Jersey Office on [Minority]
12 ¹Minority and¹ Multicultural Health in the Department of Health and
13 Senior Services.

14 b. Whenever the term "New Jersey Office on Minority Health"
15 occurs or any reference is made thereto in any law, contract or
16 document, the same shall be deemed to mean or refer to the "New
17 Jersey Office on ¹Minority and¹ Multicultural Health."

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

19

20 ¹[3.] 4.¹ Section 3 of P.L.1991, c.401 (C.26:2-162) is amended to
21 read as follows:

22 3. The office shall:

23 a. Provide grants to community-based organizations to conduct
24 special research, demonstration and evaluation projects for targeted
25 at-risk racial and ethnic minority ¹[and gender]¹ populations ¹and to
26 support ongoing community-based programs that are designed to
27 reduce or eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in the State¹;

28 b. Develop and implement model public and private partnerships
29 in racial and ethnic minority communities for health awareness
30 campaigns and to improve the access, acceptability and use of public
31 health services;

32 c. Serve as an information and resource center for racial and ethnic
33 minority ¹[and gender]¹ specific health information and data and
34 develop a clearinghouse to ¹[collect]¹ collate and organize¹ data on
35 a county-by-county basis and disseminate it upon request to interested
36 parties;

37 d. Review, recommend and develop culturally appropriate health
38 education materials;

39 e. Provide assistance to local school districts to develop programs
40 in elementary and secondary schools which stress good nutrition and
41 healthy lifestyles;

42 f. Function as an advocate for the adoption and implementation of
43 effective measures to improve [minority] the health of racial and
44 ethnic minority ¹[and gender]¹ populations in this State ¹[and] .
45 which measures should¹ lead to the elimination of disparities among

1 the various racial and ethnic populations of this State ¹[and gender-
2 based disparities] ¹ with respect to access to high-quality health care ¹,
3 utilization of health care services ¹ and health status;

4 g. Improve existing data systems to ensure that the health
5 information that is collected includes specific race and ethnicity
6 identifiers;

7 h. Review the programs of the Departments of Health and Senior
8 Services, Human Services, Community Affairs and Education and any
9 other department of State government, as appropriate, that concern
10 multicultural or minority health and make recommendations to the
11 departments that will enable them to better coordinate and improve the
12 effectiveness of their efforts; [and]

13 i. [Within 18 months of the effective date of this act, develop]
14 Develop a Statewide plan for increasing the number of racial and
15 ethnic minority health care professionals which includes
16 recommendations for the financing mechanisms and recruitment
17 strategies necessary to carry out the plan;

18 j. ¹[Study and make recommendations regarding the training of
19 health care professionals in the provision of culturally competent
20 health care, including, but not limited to, recommendations for the
21 adoption of cultural competency courses by colleges of medicine and
22 dentistry in this State that are designed to address the problem of race,
23 ethnicity and gender-based disparities in health care treatment
24 decisions] Work collaboratively with colleges of medicine and
25 dentistry in this State and other health care professional training
26 programs to develop cultural and language competency courses that
27 are designed to address the problem of racial and ethnicity disparities
28 in health care access, utilization, treatment decisions, quality and
29 outcomes ¹ ;

30 k. Develop recommendations for the most effective means of
31 providing outreach to racial and ethnic minority communities
32 throughout the State to ensure their maximum participation in publicly
33 funded health benefits programs;

34 l. Seek to establish a Statewide alliance with community-based
35 agencies and organizations, health care facilities, health care provider
36 organizations ¹, managed care organizations ¹ and pharmaceutical
37 manufacturers to promote the objectives of the office; and

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

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

44 ¹[4.] 5. ¹ Section 4 of P.L.1991, c.401 (C.26:2-163) is amended to
45 read as follows:

46 4. The office is authorized to:

- 1 a. Adopt rules and regulations pursuant to the "Administrative
2 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), concerning the
3 operation of the office and other matters that may be necessary to
4 carry out the purposes of this act;
- 5 b. Maintain offices at such places within the State as it may
6 designate;
- 7 c. Employ a director and other personnel as may be necessary. The
8 director shall be appointed by the Commissioner of Health and Senior
9 Services and shall serve at the pleasure of the commissioner during the
10 commissioner's term of office and until the appointment and
11 qualification of the director's successor. The director shall devote his
12 entire time to the duties of the position and shall receive a salary as
13 provided by law;
- 14 d. Apply for and accept any grant of money from the federal
15 government, private foundations or other sources, which may be
16 available for programs related to multicultural or minority health;
- 17 e. Serve as the designated State agency for receipt of federal funds
18 specifically designated for multicultural or racial and ethnic minority
19 health programs; and
- 20 f. Enter into contracts with individuals, organizations, and
21 institutions necessary for the performance of its duties under this act.
22 (cf: P.L.1991, c.401, s.4)

23

24 ¹[5.] 6.¹ Section 5 of P.L.1991, c.401 (C.26:2-164) is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 5. There is established a New Jersey Office on [Minority]
27 ¹Minority and¹ Multicultural Health Advisory Commission.

28 The commission shall consist of nine members, including the
29 Commissioner of Health and Senior Services or his designee, who shall
30 serve ex officio, and eight public members who are residents of the
31 State and who shall be appointed as follows: one member who is a
32 health care professional shall be appointed by the President of the
33 Senate; one member who is a health care professional shall be
34 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and six members,
35 at least two of whom are health care professionals, at least one of
36 whom represents health care facilities and at least one of whom
37 represents the health insurance industry, shall be appointed by the
38 Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

39 The term of office of each public member shall be three years, but
40 of the members first appointed, two shall be appointed for a term of
41 one year, three shall be appointed for a term of two years and three
42 shall be appointed for a term of three years. A member shall hold
43 office for the term of his appointment and until his successor has been
44 appointed and qualified. All vacancies shall be filled for the balance
45 of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.
46 A member of the commission is eligible for reappointment.

1 The public members of the commission shall not receive any
2 compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for the actual
3 and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as
4 members of the commission, within the limits of funds available to the
5 commission.

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

9 The New Jersey Office on [Minority] ¹Minority and¹ Multicultural
10 Health shall provide such staff and assistance as the commission
11 requires to carry out its work.

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

13

14 ¹[6.] 7.¹ Section 6 of P.L.1991, c.401 (C.26:2-165) is amended to
15 read as follows:

16 6. The advisory commission shall:

17 a. Review and make recommendations to the New Jersey Office on
18 [Minority] ¹Minority and¹ Multicultural Health on any rules,
19 regulations and policies proposed by the office;

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

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

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

27 The commission may accept from any governmental department or
28 agency, public or private body or any other source grants or
29 contributions to be used in carrying out its responsibilities under this
30 act.

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

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33 ¹[7.] 8.¹ Section 8 of P.L.1991, c.401 (C.26:2-167) is amended to
34 read as follows:

35 8. The office is entitled to call to its assistance, and avail itself of,
36 the services of employees of any State, county or municipal
37 department, board, bureau, commission or agency as it may require
38 and as may be available to it for its purposes. All departments,
39 agencies and divisions are authorized and directed, to the extent not
40 inconsistent with law, to cooperate with the New Jersey Office on
41 [Minority] ¹Minority and¹ Multicultural Health.

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

43

44 ¹9. a. There is appropriated \$1,500,000 from the General Fund to
45 the Office on Minority and Multicultural Health in the Department of
46 Health and Senior Services to carry out its responsibilities pursuant to

1 this act. The monies appropriated pursuant to this act shall supplement
2 any funding currently available to the office.

3 b. It is the intent of the Legislature that in succeeding fiscal years,
4 the Governor shall recommend and the Legislature shall appropriate
5 \$1,500,000 from the General Fund to the Office on Minority and
6 Multicultural Health to carry out its responsibilities under this act.
7 This amount shall be in addition to any amounts allocated to the office
8 in fiscal year 2001 pursuant to P.L.2000, c.53.¹

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10 ¹[8.] 10.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

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15 Renames Office on Minority Health in DHSS as Office on Minority
16 and Multicultural Health and provides additional responsibilities for
17 office; appropriates \$1.5 million.