

**ASSEMBLY, No. 312**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**212th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2006 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman NEIL M. COHEN**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblywoman JOAN M. VOSS**

**District 38 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman ROBERT M. GORDON**

**District 38 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle, Assemblymen Epps and Conaway**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires hospitals to notify pregnant women of option to donate umbilical cord blood.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/11/2007)**

1 AN ACT concerning the donation of umbilical cord blood and  
2 supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

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7 1. a. A general hospital licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136  
8 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) shall offer every patient of the hospital who is  
9 known to be pregnant the option to donate, to a blood bank or other  
10 appropriate entity, blood extracted from the umbilical cord of her  
11 newborn child if the donation can be made without monetary  
12 expense to the woman or the hospital for the collection or storage of  
13 the blood. b. If the woman elects to donate the umbilical cord  
14 blood of her newborn child as provided in this act, the hospital  
15 shall, to the extent possible, collect the umbilical cord blood and  
16 transmit the blood to a blood bank or other appropriate entity.

17 c. The provisions of subsections a. and b. of this act shall not be  
18 construed to:

19 (1) require a hospital to collect umbilical cord blood if, in the  
20 professional judgment of the woman's attending physician, the  
21 collection would threaten the health of the mother or newborn child;  
22 and

23 (2) apply to a physician, nurse or other hospital employee or  
24 contractor who, or a hospital that, is directly affiliated with a  
25 religious denomination that adheres to the tenet that blood transfer  
26 is contrary to the moral principles which the denomination  
27 considers to be an essential part of its beliefs and practices. The  
28 physician, nurse, other hospital employee or contractor, or hospital,  
29 as applicable, shall record, in writing, its refusal to participate in the  
30 activity provided in subsections a. and b. of this act, and include a  
31 copy of the refusal in the patient's medical record.

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33 2. This act shall take effect on the 90th day following  
34 enactment.

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STATEMENT

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39 This bill would require a general hospital in the State to offer  
40 every patient of the hospital who is known to be pregnant the option  
41 to donate, to a blood bank or other appropriate entity, blood  
42 extracted from the umbilical cord of her newborn child if the  
43 donation can be made without monetary expense to the woman or  
44 the hospital for the collection or storage of the blood. If the woman  
45 elects to donate the umbilical cord blood of her newborn child, the  
46 hospital shall, to the extent possible, collect the umbilical cord  
47 blood and transmit the blood to a blood bank or other appropriate  
48 entity.

1       The provisions of the bill shall not be construed to:

2       (1) require a hospital to collect umbilical cord blood if, in the  
3 professional judgment of the woman's attending physician, the  
4 collection would threaten the health of the mother or newborn child;  
5 and

6       (2) apply to a physician, nurse or other hospital employee or  
7 contractor who, or a hospital that, is directly affiliated with a  
8 religious denomination that adheres to the tenet that blood transfer  
9 is contrary to the moral principles which the denomination  
10 considers to be an essential part of its beliefs and practices. The  
11 health care provider shall record, in writing, its refusal to participate  
12 in the cord blood donation, and include a copy of the refusal in the  
13 patient's medical record.

14       Cord blood is blood that remains in the umbilical cord after a  
15 baby is born and the umbilical cord is cut. Many women are not  
16 aware of their option to donate umbilical cord blood, and  
17 consequently the blood is often discarded as medical waste after  
18 childbirth. In recent years, scientists have discovered that cord  
19 blood, which is rich in stem cells, can be used in the treatment of  
20 many diseases, including cancers, genetic diseases, blood disorders  
21 and immune system disorders. Cord blood stem cells can be used to  
22 treat many of the same diseases that bone marrow stem cells are  
23 used to treat; but, because a less perfect cell match is acceptable  
24 with cord blood stem cells, it becomes easier to match a patient and  
25 thus lower the occurrence of Graft Versus Host Disease.

26       Cord blood also holds great promise for stem cell research  
27 concerning new treatments for stroke, spinal cord injury, diabetes,  
28 heart disease, AIDS, Multiple Sclerosis, organ and nerve  
29 regeneration, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease and Lupus.