

ASSEMBLY, No. 716

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

213th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2008 SESSION

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD
District 6 (Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Statewide allogeneic cord blood bank, requires certain health insurers to provide coverage for cord blood banking and appropriates \$5 million to DHSS.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 AN ACT establishing a Statewide cord blood bank, requiring health
2 insurers to provide coverage for cord blood banking,
3 supplementing Titles 17 and 26 of the Revised Statutes and Title
4 17B of the New Jersey Statutes and making an appropriation.

5

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

8

9 1. a. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall
10 establish and maintain a Statewide allogeneic cord blood bank for
11 the storage of umbilical cord blood stem cells for future autologous
12 use, donation to a designated recipient or donation to an unrelated
13 and unknown person. The Department of Health and Senior
14 Services shall also provide for the collection, limited to two or three
15 hospitals in the State with large obstetrical programs, processing
16 and transporting of umbilical cord blood samples.

17 b. The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations,
18 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
19 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of this section,
20 including rules governing the training and education of obstetricians
21 and patients on cord blood donation, patient qualification standards
22 and informed consent.

23 c. There is appropriated from the General Fund \$5,000,000 to
24 the Department of Health and Senior Services for costs related to
25 this section. The Legislature shall also annually appropriate such
26 sums as it deems necessary to effectuate the purposes of this
27 section.

28

29 2. No group hospital service corporation contract providing
30 hospital or medical expense benefits for groups with more than 50
31 persons shall be delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this
32 State, or approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the
33 Commissioner of Banking and Insurance on or after the effective
34 date of this act, unless the contract provides benefits to each person
35 covered thereunder for expenses incurred in the collection,
36 processing, transporting and initial storage of umbilical cord blood
37 stem cells for future autologous use or donation for use by the
38 subscriber's child covered under the same health benefits plan.

39 The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other
40 medical condition under the contract.

41 The provisions of this section shall apply to all contracts in
42 which the hospital service corporation has reserved the right to
43 change the premium.

44

45 3. No group medical service corporation contract providing
46 hospital or medical expense benefits for groups with more than 50
47 persons shall be delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this
48 State, or approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the

1 Commissioner of Banking and Insurance on or after the effective
2 date of this act, unless the contract provides benefits to each person
3 covered thereunder for expenses incurred in the collection,
4 processing, transporting and initial storage of umbilical cord blood
5 stem cells for future autologous use or donation for use by the
6 subscriber's child covered under the same health benefits plan.

7 The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other
8 medical condition under the contract.

9 The provisions of this section shall apply to all contracts in
10 which the medical service corporation has reserved the right to
11 change the premium.

12

13 4. No group health service corporation contract providing
14 hospital or medical expense benefits for groups with more than 50
15 persons shall be delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this
16 State, or approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the
17 Commissioner of Banking and Insurance on or after the effective
18 date of this act, unless the contract provides benefits to each person
19 covered thereunder for expenses incurred in the collection,
20 processing, transporting and initial storage of umbilical cord blood
21 stem cells for future autologous use or donation for use by the
22 subscriber's child covered under the same health benefits plan.

23 The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other
24 medical condition under the contract.

25 The provisions of this section shall apply to all contracts in
26 which the health service corporation has reserved the right to
27 change the premium.

28

29 5. No group health insurance policy providing hospital or
30 medical expense benefits for groups with more than 50 persons
31 shall be delivered, issued, executed or renewed in this State, or
32 approved for issuance or renewal in this State by the Commissioner
33 of Banking and Insurance on or after the effective date of this act,
34 unless the policy provides benefits to each person covered
35 thereunder for expenses incurred in the collection, processing,
36 transporting and initial storage of umbilical cord blood stem cells
37 for future autologous use or donation for use by the insured's child
38 covered under the same health benefits plan.

39 The benefits shall be provided to the same extent as for any other
40 medical condition under the policy.

41 The provisions of this section shall apply to all policies in which
42 the insurer has reserved the right to change the premium.

43

44 6. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a
45 certificate of authority to establish and operate a health maintenance
46 organization in this State shall not be issued or continued by the
47 Commissioner of Health and Senior Services on or after the
48 effective date of this act unless the health maintenance organization

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1 provides for groups with more than 50 enrollees, health care
2 services to any enrollee for the collection, processing, transporting
3 and initial storage of umbilical cord blood stem cells for future
4 autologous use or donation for use by the enrollee's child covered
5 under the same health benefits plan.

6 The health care services shall be provided to the same extent as
7 for any other medical condition under the contract.

8 The provisions of this section shall apply to all contracts for
9 health care services by health maintenance organizations under
10 which the right to change the schedule of charges for enrollee
11 coverage is reserved.

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13 7. This act shall take effect on the 30th day after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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18 Umbilical cord blood banking is a process in which the umbilical
19 cord blood of a newborn is saved, or "banked," for future use, either
20 for autologous donation, donation for a specific recipient or
21 donation for an unknown person. Umbilical cord blood is a source
22 of stem cells which have been used in the treatment of various
23 cancers and blood disorders.

24 This bill would establish a Statewide cord blood bank for the
25 storage of cord blood stem cells and provide for the collection,
26 processing and transporting of the samples. In addition, the bill
27 requires health insurers in group plans covering more than 50
28 persons to provide coverage for the collection, processing,
29 transporting and initial storage of umbilical cord blood for future
30 autologous use or donation for use by the insured's child covered
31 under the same health benefits plan.

32 The bill further appropriates \$5 million from the General Fund
33 for costs related to the collection, processing, transporting and
34 storage of cord blood for the Statewide cord blood bank. The
35 Legislature shall also appropriate necessary sums for these purposes
36 annually.