

ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1951

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 4, 1999

The Assembly Health Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 1951.

As amended by the committee, this bill permits a Medicaid recipient to continue to be eligible for a free-standing special care nursing facility without a limitation on length of stay if the recipient continues to reside in a free-standing special care nursing facility of 40 beds or less and develops skills leading toward a more independent life and continues to benefit from active participation in the following: community involvement, continuing education, employment in the community, sheltered workshop, extended rehabilitation, complex care and vocational training.

Under the provisions of the bill:

-- "free-standing" means a facility that: is independently incorporated as a for-profit or nonprofit entity; is not affiliated with or owned by any governmental entity, including a federal, State, county or municipal entity, or any religious entity which limits services to members only; and is not directly owned and operated by a hospital unless the facility is located at least 20 miles outside the boundaries of the municipality in which the hospital is located, in which case the facility may be owned and operated by that hospital; and

-- "special care nursing facility" means a nursing facility or separate and distinct special care nursing facility unit within a Medicaid-certified conventional nursing facility which has been approved by the Department of Health and Senior Services to provide care to New Jersey Medicaid recipients who require specialized nursing facility services beyond the scope of a conventional nursing facility.

The committee amended the bill to include the term "free-standing" with reference to special care nursing facilities and to provide a definition of that term.

The committee also amended the bill to reflect the change in regulatory responsibility for special care nursing facilities from the Department of Human Services to the Department of Health and Senior Services.