

ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2168

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 6, 2010

The Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 2168.

As amended by the committee, this bill, which is designated as Jaden's Law, is designed to promote awareness among patients of their option to become bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC) donors.

The bill provides specifically as follows:

- The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services is to prepare an online brochure for display on the Internet website of the Department of Health and Senior Services, based upon information derived from the National Marrow Donor Program, or NMDP, which may be downloaded by physicians and utilized by the commissioner for the purposes of this bill, and is to be designed to inform patients of the option to become a bone marrow or PBSC donor by registering with the NMDP and to answer common questions about bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell, or PBSC, donation.
- The brochure is to describe:
 - the health benefits to the community from making a bone marrow or PBSC donation through the NMDP;
 - how to register with the NMDP;
 - the procedures for making a bone marrow or PBSC donation through the NMDP, including notice that there is no charge to the donor or the donor's family for making the donation;
 - the circumstances and procedures by which a patient may receive a transfusion of the patient's previously donated blood; and
 - any other aspects of bone marrow or PBSC donation that the commissioner deems appropriate for the purposes of the bill.
- The commissioner, within the limits of resources available to the Department of Health and Senior Services for this purpose, is to seek to promote awareness among physicians and the general public in this State about the option to become a bone marrow or PBSC donor. In doing so, the commissioner is to consult with at least the following: the Medical Society of New Jersey, the Institute of Medicine and Public Health of New Jersey, the NMDP, and other

organizations that are seeking to increase bone marrow and PBSC donation among various ethnic groups within the State in need of these donations.

- The bill takes effect on the 90th day following enactment.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments to the bill:

-- delete the requirement that a physician provide a patient with a copy of the brochure prepared by the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services and offer to discuss with the patient the information contained in the brochure; and

-- require, instead, that the commissioner: within the limits of resources available to the Department of Health and Senior Services for this purpose, seek to promote awareness among physicians and the general public in this State about the option to become a bone marrow or PBSC donor; and, in doing so, consult with at least the Medical Society of New Jersey, the Institute of Medicine and Public Health of New Jersey, the NMDP, and other organizations seeking to increase bone marrow and PBSC donation among various ethnic groups within the State in need of these donations.