

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 135

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 7, 2010

The Senate Health, Human Service and Senior Citizen committee reports favorably and with committee amendments, Senate Bill No. 135.

As amended by committee, this bill provides that an individual's status as a minor may not disqualify him from bone marrow donation if the minor meets the medical criteria for bone marrow donation, the minor's parent or legal guardian provides written consent, and a medical informed consent is signed as required by law.

This bill, which is similar to legislation enacted in Washington State in 2000, is in response to the policy of the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) to exclude individuals under 18 years of age from registering to be volunteer bone marrow donors. The NMDP is a nonprofit organization that facilitates unrelated bone marrow and blood stem cell transplants for patients with life-threatening diseases who do not have matching donors in their families, through its Be The Match Registry. The NMDP is authorized by the federal government to operate the C. W. Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program, the federal program supporting bone marrow and cord blood donation and transplantation.

The committee amendments:

- replace "shall" with "may" and
- include the conditions that the minor's parent or legal guardian provide written consent and that the minor meet medical criteria for bone marrow donation and medical informed consent is signed as required by law.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2010-2011 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.