

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR  
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 1931**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JULY 19, 2010

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with amendments Senate Bill No. 1931.

As amended by committee, this bill establishes the New Jersey Aphasia Study Commission in the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS).

Specifically, the bill provides as follows:

- The purpose of the commission is to:
  - establish a mechanism in order to ascertain the prevalence of aphasia in New Jersey, and the unmet needs of persons with aphasia and those of their families;
  - study model aphasia support programs, such as, the Kean University Institute for Adults Living with Communication Disabilities and the Adler Aphasia Center; and
  - provide recommendations for additional support programs and resources to meet the unmet needs of persons with aphasia and their families.
- The commission is to consist of 11 members as follows:
  - the Commissioners of Health and Senior Services, Banking and Insurance, and Human Services, or their designees, who shall serve ex officio; and
  - eight public members who shall be appointed as follows: two persons appointed by the Senate President, one of whom is a person with aphasia and one of whom provides services to persons with aphasia; two persons appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, one of whom is a person with aphasia and one of whom provides services to persons with aphasia; and four persons appointed by the Governor, one of whom is a person with aphasia, one of whom provides services to persons with aphasia, and two of whom are members of the public with demonstrated expertise in issues relating to the work of the commission.
- The commission shall organize within 120 days following the appointment of a majority of its members and shall select a

chairperson and vice-chairperson from among the members. The chairperson shall appoint a secretary who need not be a member of the commission.

- DHSS is to provide staff support to the commission.
- The commission is to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature no later than 12 months after its initial meeting.
- The bill expires upon the issuance of the commission report.

The committee adopted technical amendments to the bill to clarify language regarding the members of the commission.

As amended, this bill is similar to Assembly Bill No. 2811 (Vainieri Huttel/Johnson), which is pending before the Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee.