

ASSEMBLY, No. 30

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 20, 1996

By Assemblymen MALONE and COTTRELL

1 AN ACT establishing the Department of Health and Senior Services
2 and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. On May 2, 1996, Governor Whitman filed a reorganization plan
9 with the Legislature expanding the jurisdiction of the Department of
10 Health and renaming it as the Department of Health and Senior
11 Services;

12 b. The reorganization plan consolidates more than 20 State and
13 federal programs serving senior citizens that are currently administered
14 by the Departments of Human Services, Community Affairs, Insurance
15 and Health, in order to "foster the efficient implementation of a
16 coherent public policy for the elder citizens of the State;"

17 c. The reorganization plan transfers the following programs and
18 offices established by law:

19 (1) Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled, P.L.1975,
20 c.194 (C.30:4D-20 et seq.)

21 (2) Lifeline Credit Program, P.L.1979, c.197 (C.48:2-29.15 et
22 seq.)

23 (3) Tenants' Lifeline Assistance Program, P.L.1981, c.210 (C.48:2-
24 29.30 et seq.)

25 (4) Hearing Aid Assistance for the Aged and Disabled, P.L.1987,
26 c.298 (C.30:4D-36 et seq.)

27 (5) Statewide Respite Care Program, P.L.1987, c.119 (C.30:4F-7
28 et seq.)

29 (6) Division on Aging, P.L.1957, c.72 (C.26:1A-107 et seq.)

30 (7) Office of the Ombudsman for the Institutionalized Elderly,
31 P.L.1977, c.239 (C.52:27G-1 et seq.)

32 (8) Office of the Public Guardian for Elderly Adults, P.L.1985,
33 c.298 (C.52:27G-21 et seq.)

34 (9) Congregate Housing Services program, P.L.1981, c.553
35 (C.52:27D-182 et seq.) and

36 (10) Adult Protective Services program, P.L.1993, c.249
37 (C.52:27D-406 et seq.);

- 1 d. The reorganization plan also transfers the following programs
2 established administratively:
- 3 (1) Senior Health Insurance Unit, in the Department of Insurance
4 (2) AIDS Drug Distribution Program, in the Department of Human
5 Services
6 (3) Component of the Bureau of Home and Community Services
7 that includes the Community Care Program for the Elderly and
8 Disabled and the Assisted Living/Alternate Family Care waiver, in the
9 Department of Human Services
10 (4) Bureau of Nursing Facility Level Services, in the Department
11 of Human Services
12 (5) Bureau of Nursing Facility Policy and Reimbursements, in the
13 Department of Human Services
14 (6) Bureau of Program Development for the Office of Elder and
15 Disabled Affairs, in the Department of Human Services and
16 (7) Enrollment Component of the Specified Low-Income Medicare
17 Beneficiaries Program, in the Department of Human Services;
- 18 e. The transfer of the programs identified in the reorganization
19 plan to a single State department should achieve the laudable goal of
20 unifying the administration of State services for senior citizens and
21 thereby providing for a more efficient and effective system for the
22 delivery of services to the State's senior citizens; and
- 23 f. While the Governor is authorized under the "Executive
24 Reorganization Act of 1969," P.L.1969, c.203 (C.52:14C-1 et seq.) to
25 effect the transfer of the above named programs, offices and
26 administrative activities, legislative action is needed to change the
27 name of the Department of Health to the Department of Health and
28 Senior Services, thus affirming the Governor's action in expanding the
29 jurisdiction of this Executive department.
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- 31 2. The Department of Health, established pursuant to section 2 of
32 P.L.1947, c.177 (C.26:1A-2), is renamed the Department of Health
33 and Senior Services. The title of State Commissioner of Health,
34 established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1947, c.177 (C.26:1A-3) shall
35 be redesignated the as State Commissioner of Health and Senior
36 Services.
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- 38 3. Whenever any law, rule, regulation, order, contract, tariff,
39 document, judicial or administrative proceeding or otherwise refers to
40 the Department of Health and the commissioner thereof, the same shall
41 mean the Department of Health and Senior Services and the
42 commissioner thereof.
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- 44 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 1996.

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STATEMENT

This bill affirms the Governor's action to expand the jurisdiction of the Department of Health by consolidating various State and federal programs serving senior citizens in the State within that department. Accordingly, the bill renames the Department of Health as the Department of Health and Senior Services and redesignates the Commissioner of Health as the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services.

Renames Department of Health as Department of Health and Senior Services and affirms Governor's reorganization plan for senior services.