

ASSEMBLY, No. 548

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Assemblywoman TURNER

1 AN ACT concerning breast feeding and supplementing chapter 1 of
2 Title 10 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: the Surgeon General of
8 the United States recommends that babies from birth to one year of
9 age should be breast fed, unless medically contraindicated, in order to
10 achieve a healthy start on life; breast milk strengthens the immune
11 system of babies, improves digestion and is of better nutritional value
12 than regular milk; other benefits include the establishment of a strong
13 mother-baby bond and a potential increase in a baby's IQ level; despite
14 the Surgeon General's recommendation, statistics reveal a declining
15 number of women are choosing to breast feed their children, and
16 nearly half of all new mothers are now choosing formula over breast
17 milk even before they leave the hospital; the social constraints of
18 modern society impede a woman's choice to breast feed due to
19 embarrassment, fear of criminal prosecution and the lack of public
20 acceptance; therefore, it is in the best interest of the State to
21 recognize breast feeding in places of public accomodation as an
22 important right which must be encouraged in order to promote child
23 health.

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25 2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a mother
26 shall be entitled to breast feed her baby in any location of a place of
27 public accommodation, resort or amusement wherein the mother is
28 otherwise permitted.

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30 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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35 This bill amends New Jersey's civil rights law, chapter 1 of Title 10

1 of the Revised Statutes (C.10:1-1 et seq.) to allow a mother the right
2 to breast feed her child in any location of a place of public
3 accommodation, resort or amusement where the mother is otherwise
4 permitted. Breast feeding has been recommended by the Surgeon
5 General as an important way to give babies a healthy start on life. Its
6 benefits include improved digestion, a strengthened immune system,
7 a potential increase in a baby's IQ level and the creation of a strong
8 mother-baby bond.

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13 Permits mothers to breast feed babies in public places.