

ASSEMBLY, No. 2342

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 19, 1996

By Assemblymen COTTRELL and MALONE

1 AN ACT establishing an osteoporosis prevention and treatment
2 program, supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes and
3 making an appropriation.

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

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8 1. This act shall be cited and may be known as the "Osteoporosis
9 Prevention and Treatment Education Act."

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11 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

12 a. Osteoporosis, a bone-thinning disease, is a major health care
13 problem that poses a threat to the health of as many as 25 million
14 Americans who may be unaware of their condition until their first
15 fracture, often of the hip, wrist or spine;

16 b. One in two women and one in five men will suffer from an
17 osteoporotic fracture in their lifetime and the 1.5 million fractures
18 which result each year cause pain, disability, immobility and social
19 isolation, threatening an individual's ability to live independently and
20 affecting the quality of life of those who suffer from the disease;

21 c. A woman's risk of a hip fracture is equal to her combined risk of
22 developing breast, uterine and ovarian cancer and the annual health
23 care costs, both direct and indirect, of treating osteoporosis, are
24 estimated to rise between \$60 to \$80 billion by the year 2020;

25 d. Since osteoporosis progresses silently and currently has no cure,
26 prevention, early diagnosis and treatment are the only keys in
27 controlling this devastating disease. Although a large quantity of
28 information currently exists about osteoporosis, most people, including
29 physicians, health-care professionals and governmental agencies, lack
30 knowledge in the detection, treatment and prevention of the disease.
31 Furthermore, experts in the field of osteoporosis believe that with
32 greater awareness of the value of prevention among physicians, health-
33 care professionals and the public, the disease will be treatable and
34 preventable in the future; and

35 e. Therefore, it is in the State's interest to establish an osteoporosis
36 prevention and treatment education program to promote public
37 awareness about the causes of osteoporosis and to educate healthcare

1 professionals, physicians and policy-makers on the value of prevention,
2 early detection and the treatment options available to the sufferers of
3 the disease.

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5 3. As used in this act:

6 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Health and Senior
7 Services.

8 "Council" means the Interagency Council on Osteoporosis.

9 "Department" means the Department of Health and Senior Services.

10 "Program" means the Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment
11 Education Program established under this act.

12

13 4. a. The commissioner shall establish an Osteoporosis Prevention
14 and Treatment Education Program. The purpose of the program is to
15 promote public awareness Statewide on the causes of osteoporosis and
16 to educate governmental officials, physicians and healthcare
17 professionals on the value of prevention, early detection and the
18 options available for treatment.

19 b. The program shall be designed to allow the department to:

20 (1) Review, coordinate, and when necessary, expand successful
21 osteoporosis-related programs provided by public, private and State-
22 run entities and to supply technical assistance to agencies and
23 healthcare professionals, upon request, on the development of
24 programs and services relating to the disease;

25 (2) Provide educational materials, results of research performed in
26 the field of osteoporosis, information on available services and
27 treatment methods for individuals afflicted with the disease and
28 information on strategies for the establishment of prevention services,
29 to patients, healthcare professionals, physicians and the public;

30 (3) Evaluate existing community-based services for sufferers of
31 osteoporosis and make recommendations on ways in which to improve
32 the quality and accessibility of those services;

33 (4) Establish a osteoporosis services information clearinghouse to
34 provide governmental agencies, healthcare professionals, physicians
35 and patients with information on available programs, services,
36 resources for individuals suffering with the disease and the names of
37 physicians who specialize in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention
38 of osteoporosis;

39 (5) Promote the development of support groups for osteoporosis
40 patients, their families and caregivers;

41 (6) Evaluate the State's funding mechanisms available for
42 osteoporosis services and make recommendations to the Governor and
43 the Legislature about any changes which may be necessary to
44 adequately fund new and existing programs; and

45 (7) Create a public awareness and outreach campaign highlighting

1 the causes of osteoporosis and the value of prevention and early
2 detection when dealing with the disease.

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4 5. The commissioner shall establish the Interagency Council on
5 Osteoporosis in the Department of Health and Senior Services. The
6 council shall consist of 15 members as follows: The Commissioners of
7 Education, Health and Senior Services, and Human Services, the
8 Assistant Commissioner for Senior Affairs in the Department of Health
9 and Senior Services and the Director of the Division on Women in the
10 Department of Community Affairs, or their designees, who shall serve
11 ex officio; four members of the Legislature, two of whom shall be
12 appointed by the President of the Senate and two of whom shall be
13 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly; and six public
14 members appointed by the Governor who shall include: a
15 representative of a women's health-care organization, a public health
16 educator, an expert in the field of osteoporosis, a healthcare provider
17 who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis and two
18 individuals who have osteoporosis. The public members shall serve
19 for a term of three years, except that of the public members first
20 appointed, two shall serve for a term of one year, two shall be
21 appointed for a term of two years and two shall be appointed for a
22 term of three years. The Legislative members shall serve while
23 members of their respective houses for the term for which they have
24 been elected. The commissioner shall appoint a chairperson from
25 among the public members of the council.

26 Vacancies in the membership shall be filled in the same manner as
27 original appointments were made. Members shall serve without
28 compensation but shall be reimbursed for the reasonable expenses
29 incurred in the performance of their duties.

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31 6. The council shall:

32 a. Assist the department in developing osteoporosis-related policies
33 and programs, including the "Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment
34 Education Program" established pursuant to this act;

35 b. Analyze research on the most promising areas of diagnosis,
36 treatment and prevention of osteoporosis and establish mechanisms to
37 use the results of this research in the development of Statewide
38 policies and programs relating to the disease;

39 c. Act as a focal point for sharing information on osteoporosis
40 among governmental officials, health-care professionals, physicians
41 and the public;

42 d. Hold public hearings and conduct studies on issues relating to
43 osteoporosis for the purpose of developing recommendations for
44 legislative, regulatory and programmatic changes; and

45 e. Prepare a report of its findings and recommendations for
46 legislative, programmatic and regulatory changes as the council deems

1 appropriate to further the State's, the public's and the healthcare
2 community's understanding of the causes of osteoporosis and the
3 value of early diagnosis, proper treatment and prevention. The
4 commissioner shall present this report to the Legislature and the
5 Governor no later than 18 months following the establishment of the
6 council.

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8 7. The commissioner shall apply for and accept any grant of money
9 from the federal government, private foundations, medical schools or
10 other sources which may be available for the program and the council.

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12 8. Pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,
13 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the commissioner may adopt rules and
14 regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this act.

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16 9. There is appropriated \$300,000 from the General Fund to the
17 Department of Health and Senior Services to effectuate the purposes
18 of this act.

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20 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

21 22 23 STATEMENT

24
25 This bill establishes the "Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment
26 Education Program" in the Department of Health and Senior Services.
27 The program would be designed to allow the department to:

28 1. Review, coordinate, and when necessary, expand successful
29 osteoporosis-related programs provided by public, private and State-
30 run entities;

31 2. Provide to patients, health care professionals and physicians,
32 educational materials, research results, and information on services and
33 treatment options available to individuals afflicted with the disease;

34 3. Evaluate community-based services for sufferers of osteoporosis
35 and to make recommendations on ways to improve the quality and
36 accessibility of those services;

37 4. Establish an osteoporosis services information clearinghouse;

38 5. Promote the establishment of support groups for osteoporosis
39 sufferers, their families and care givers;

40 6. Evaluate the State's funding mechanisms available for
41 osteoporosis-related services; and

42 7. Create a public awareness and outreach program highlighting the
43 value of prevention and early detection of osteoporosis.

44 The bill also requires the Commissioner of Health and Senior
45 Services to establish a 15-member Interagency Council on
46 Osteoporosis. Among the council's responsibilities would be to help

1 the department in developing osteoporosis-related programs including
2 the "Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment Education Program" and
3 to hold public hearings and conduct studies on issues relating to
4 osteoporosis. The council would also prepare a report of its findings
5 and recommendations for legislative and programmatic changes and
6 present the report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than
7 18 months following its establishment.

8 Finally, the bill appropriates \$300,000 to effectuate the purposes of
9 the bill.

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14 Establishes the "Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment Education
15 Act;" appropriates \$300,000.