

ASSEMBLY, No. 2834

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 20, 1997

By Assemblymen ZECKER and RUSSO

1 AN ACT establishing a program of services for persons with chronic
2 fatigue syndrome and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall establish
9 a Statewide network of resources to provide the following services to
10 persons with chronic fatigue syndrome, also known as chronic fatigue
11 immune dysfunction syndrome: information and referral services,
12 physician training and patient education programs, information on
13 disability services, a public awareness campaign, and clinical services
14 that provide diagnosis and treatment of persons with chronic fatigue
15 syndrome.

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17 2. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, pursuant to
18 the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
19 seq.), shall adopt rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of
20 this act.

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22 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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25 STATEMENT

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27 This bill requires the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services
28 to establish a Statewide network of resources to provide the following
29 services to persons with chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS): information
30 and referral services, physician and patient education and training
31 programs, information on disability services, a public awareness
32 campaign, and clinical services that provide diagnosis and treatment of
33 persons with CFS.

34 CFS is a scientifically recognized disease syndrome which manifests
35 itself across a spectrum of symptoms, ranging from people being
36 chronically tired to being confined to a wheelchair. The federal
37 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently raised CFS to a

1 "Priority 1" in its new re-emerging drug-resistant infectious disease
2 category. Other "Priority 1" diseases include cholera, malaria,
3 hepatitis C and tuberculosis.

4 For many who have it, CFS is a devastating and debilitating illness
5 characterized by both physical symptoms (joint pain, muscle weakness,
6 headaches, insomnia and exhaustion) and cognitive symptoms (such as
7 memory loss, inability to concentrate and mental "fog"). Many CFS
8 patients are totally disabled and unable to care for themselves. To
9 date, no cure has been found for the estimated one million persons
10 with CFS in this country, and research on CFS presents special
11 challenges because the causes and mechanisms of this disease are not
12 yet fully understood. It should be noted that the federal government
13 has recognized the seriousness of this disease. For example, several
14 institutes at the National Institutes of Health support research on CFS,
15 and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are engaged in
16 studying the epidemiology of CFS, particularly its incidence and
17 prevalence.

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22 Establishes chronic fatigue syndrome program in Department of Health
23 and Senior Services.