

P.L. 1997, CHAPTER 17, *approved January 31, 1997*
Senate, No. 1399

1 **AN ACT** concerning the Division of Developmental Disabilities'
2 community residential and day program waiting list.

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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. Between June 30, 1988 and April 30, 1996, the number of
9 persons on the Division of Developmental Disabilities' Alternate Living
10 Waiting List increased from more than 1,500 to over 4,455;

11 b. As of April 30, 1996, nearly 900 persons had no day program
12 available;

13 c. The \$80 million in bond funds available to the Division of
14 Developmental Disabilities from the Developmental Disabilities'
15 Waiting List Reduction and Human Services Facilities Construction
16 Fund will only deal with the capital requirements of the approximately
17 2,000 persons who are in Categories 1 and 2 of the waiting list;

18 d. The March 28, 1996 initiative announced by Governor Whitman
19 to develop community residential programs for approximately 600
20 developmentally disabled persons between FY 1997 and FY 1999 at
21 an annual cost of \$32 million will only maintain the waiting list at
22 current levels, even though the waiting list increases by one client per
23 day;

24 e. Statistics from the New Jersey Department of Education, Office
25 of Special Education Program indicate that there will be a significant
26 increase in the number of multiply handicapped classified pupils who
27 will graduate from educational programs and that such pupils are likely
28 to require community services from the Division of Developmental
29 Disabilities; and

30 f. The Division of Developmental Disabilities does not have a long-
31 term plan to eliminate the current and future waiting list and to
32 provide for the associated capital and operational costs needed to
33 address the current and future waiting list.

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35 2. a. The Commissioner of Human Services shall prepare and
36 submit a plan to the Governor and the Legislature within 180 days
37 after the effective date of this act to eliminate the current and future

1 Division of Developmental Disabilities waiting list by the year 2008.

2 b. The plan shall include:

3 1. Statistical information on the current and projected increase
4 in the waiting list;

5 2. Financial information on the capital funds necessary to
6 eliminate the current and future waiting list by the year 2008; and

7 3. Financial information on the amount of additional State,
8 federal and other funds that may be required annually for operating
9 costs associated with eliminating the waiting list by the year 2008.

10 c. In developing the plan, the commissioner shall conduct public
11 hearings and obtain public input from persons with developmental
12 disabilities or their families or guardians and providers of services to
13 the developmental disabilities community.

14 d. The commissioner shall update the statistical and financial data
15 in the plan annually and submit the updated plan to the Governor and
16 the Legislature by December 31 of each year.

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18 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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23 This bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services to submit a
24 plan for the elimination of the Division of Developmental Disabilities'
25 community residential and day program waiting lists by the year 2008
26 and to annually update the plan.

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31 Requires Commissioner of Human Services to develop and submit plan
32 to eliminate developmental disabilities community residential and day
33 program waiting list by the year 2008.