

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR **SENATE, Nos. 992 and 1121**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 20, 1996

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill Nos. 992 and 1121 (SCS).

Senate Bill Nos. 992 and 1121 (SCS) requires that all abstracting work performed by a health care facility, in accordance with the State cancer registry regulations, be done by a certified tumor registrar to provide for greater accuracy and consistency. The bill further allows the Department of Health to contract out its registry services to those health care facilities that lack the capability to comply with the regulations on a timely basis. The department will also conduct registry services at facilities that fail to correct deficiencies discovered by an audit. These facilities will reimburse the department for all costs related to the services rendered.

In addition, the bill requires health insurers and all third party health care payers to report cancer cases pursuant to rules established by the department. The bill establishes a penalty of \$500 per unreported cancer case if any health care facility, provider or insurer fails to comply with the cancer registry's reporting requirements. In addition, the bill establishes a penalty of \$1,000 per day if any health care facility fails to report electronically by December 1, 1996. These penalties will be dedicated to the State cancer registry.

Finally, the bill makes an appropriation of \$400,000 to the cancer registry to enable it to improve its reporting and analysis capabilities.

The State cancer registry was established in 1977 to assist in determining correlations between cancer and environmental factors in the State in order to reduce the incidence of environmentally related cancer.

As reported, this bill is identical to Assembly, No. 1760 ACS of 1996 (Holzapfel/Wolfe).

#### FISCAL IMPACT

The bill makes an appropriation from the General Fund to the Department of Health of \$400,000 to be used by the cancer registry to improve its reporting and analysis capabilities including cancer incidence and epidemiological research associated with the Toms River, childhood cancer investigation.

It is not known at this time how much in additional revenues the new penalties in the bill will generate.