

SENATE, No. 1354

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 20, 1996

By Senators SINGER and BASSANO

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

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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. 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.

7 "Council" means the Interagency Council on Osteoporosis.

8 "Department" means the Department of Health.

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

11  
12 4. a. The commissioner shall establish an Osteoporosis Prevention  
13 and Treatment Education Program. The purpose of the program is to  
14 promote public awareness Statewide on the causes of osteoporosis and  
15 to educate governmental officials, physicians and healthcare  
16 professionals on the value of prevention, early detection and the  
17 options available for treatment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

44 (7) Create a public awareness and outreach campaign highlighting  
45 the causes of osteoporosis and the value of prevention and early  
46 detection when dealing with the disease.

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

22       Vacancies in the membership shall be filled in the same manner as  
23 original appointments were made. Members shall serve without  
24 compensation but shall be reimbursed for the reasonable expenses  
25 incurred in the performance of their duties.

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27       6. The council shall:

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

31       b. Analyze research on the most promising areas of diagnosis,  
32 treatment and prevention of osteoporosis and establish mechanisms to  
33 use the results of this research in the development of Statewide  
34 policies and programs relating to the disease;

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

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

41       e. Prepare a report of its findings and recommendations for  
42 legislative, programmatic and regulatory changes as the council deems  
43 appropriate to further the State's, the public's and the healthcare  
44 community's understanding of the causes of osteoporosis and the  
45 value of early diagnosis, proper treatment and prevention. The  
46 commissioner shall present this report to the Legislature and the

1 Governor no later than 18 months following the establishment of the  
2 council.

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

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

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12 9. There is appropriated \$300,000 from the General Fund to the  
13 Department of Health to effectuate the purposes of this act.

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15 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### 18 STATEMENT

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20 This bill establishes the "Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment  
21 Education Program" in the Department of Health. The program would  
22 be designed to allow the department to:

23 1. Review, coordinate, and when necessary, expand successful  
24 osteoporosis-related programs provided by public, private and State-  
25 run entities;

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

29 3. Evaluate community-based services for sufferers of osteoporosis  
30 and to make recommendations on ways to improve the quality and  
31 accessibility of those services;

32 4. Establish an osteoporosis services information clearinghouse;

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

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

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

39 The bill also requires the Commissioner of Health to establish a 15-  
40 member Interagency Council on Osteoporosis. Among the council's  
41 responsibilities would be to help the department in developing  
42 osteoporosis-related programs including the "Osteoporosis Prevention  
43 and Treatment Education Program" and to hold public hearings and  
44 conduct studies on issues relating to osteoporosis. The council would  
45 also prepare a report of its findings and recommendations for  
46 legislative and programmatic changes and present the report to the

1 Governor and the Legislature no later than 18 months following its  
2 establishment.

3 Finally, the bill appropriates \$300,000 to effectuate the purposes of  
4 the bill.

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