

SENATE, No. 2116

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 5, 1997

By Senator EWING

1 AN ACT concerning the disposition of prescription medications in  
2 nursing homes and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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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. A nursing home licensed pursuant to P.L.1971, c.136  
8 (C.26:2H-1 et seq.) shall dispose of patient prescription medications  
9 no sooner than one year after the date of issuance of the prescription  
10 or at the manufacturer's expiration date, whichever occurs first.

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12 2. Pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,  
13 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Commissioner of Health and Senior  
14 Services shall adopt rules and regulations necessary to carry out the  
15 purposes of this act.

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17 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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22 This bill requires nursing homes to dispose of patient prescription  
23 medications no sooner than one year after the date of issuance of the  
24 prescription or at the manufacturer's expiration date, whichever occurs  
25 first. The Department of Health and Senior Services' regulations  
26 require the disposal of patient prescription medications to follow  
27 United States Pharmacopoeia (U.S.P.) guidelines, which call for  
28 disposal of the patient prescription medications after six months, even  
29 if the manufacturer's expiration date occurs later. This bill will help  
30 reduce costs by allowing nursing homes to retain patient prescription  
31 medications longer.

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36 Requires nursing homes to dispose of prescription medications by  
37 specified time period.