

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 14

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1996 SESSION

By Senators BUBBA and INVERSO

- 1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** memorializing the United States Congress to
2 adopt pending legislation concerning the provision of at least a 48-hour stay
3 in the hospital after childbirth.
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- 5 **WHEREAS**, Increasingly, insurers are refusing payment for hospital stays
6 beyond 24 hours after an uncomplicated delivery; and
7 **WHEREAS**, Women need more than 24 hours to recuperate from giving birth
8 and to learn how to breast-feed and care for their babies under the
9 protected and controlled environment of a hospital; and
10 **WHEREAS**, A mother discharged early from the hospital, for example, may not
11 know how to breast-feed properly. A baby who is not receiving enough
12 to eat may become dehydrated, which in severe cases may cause a stroke;
13 and
14 **WHEREAS**, A first-time mother, especially, may not recognize the symptoms
15 of jaundice early, which is potentially very serious since severe jaundice
16 can lead to irreversible brain damage; and
17 **WHEREAS**, There is also concern about the impact of early discharge on
18 state-mandated tests for disorders like phenylketonuria which can cause
19 mental retardation, the tests for which are done before discharge, and are
20 most accurate more than 24 hours after the baby's first feeding. By then
21 many babies have gone home, necessitating a second test; and
22 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey, Maryland and North Carolina have enacted laws to
23 insure that mothers and newborns have at least 48 hours in the hospital
24 after childbirth and many other states have pending legislation to require this
25 length of stay; and
26 **WHEREAS**, The American Academy of Pediatrics recently released new
27 guidelines stating that most mothers and infants need to stay in the hospital
28 at least 48 hours after childbirth and that the timing of the discharge should
29 be decided by the doctor and not by arbitrary policy established by a third
30 party; and
31 **WHEREAS**, Federal legislation has been introduced in both the Senate and
32 House of Representatives which would provide at least a 48-hour stay in
33 the hospital after childbirth, and this legislation has the support of such

1 groups as the American Medical Association, the American College of
2 Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Academy of Pediatrics;
3 now, therefore,
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5 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the General*
6 *Assembly concurring):*
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8 1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey memorializes the United
9 States Congress to adopt pending legislation in the Senate and the House of
10 Representatives which provides mothers and their newborns with at least
11 48-hour hospital stays after childbirth.
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13 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the President of
14 the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly and attested by the
15 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the General Assembly, shall be
16 transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of
17 Representatives and to each member of the Senate and House of
18 Representatives elected from this State.
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21 STATEMENT
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23 This concurrent resolution memorializes the United States Congress to
24 adopt pending legislation in both houses which would provide mothers and
25 their newborns with at least 48-hour hospital stays after childbirth. Senate Bill
26 969 of 1995, for example, was modeled after P.L.1995, c.138 which requires
27 insurers in New Jersey to provide adequate postpartum care by allowing
28 mothers and their infants to remain in the hospital for 48 hours after a vaginal
29 birth and 96 hours after a Caesarean delivery. There are also several
30 measures pending in the House of Representatives that accomplish similar
31 goals.
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36 Memorializes Congress to pass pending legislation to permit women and
37 newborns at least a 48-hour stay in the hospital after delivery.