

39:3-8.2

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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(New Jersey Emergency Medical
Service Helicopter Response
Program)

NJSA: 39:3-8.2

LAWS OF: 1992 CHAPTER: 87

BILL NO: A873

SPONSOR(S) Kamin and others

DATE INTRODUCED: February 13, 1992

COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY: Appropriations

SENATE: Budget

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes Amendments during passage
denoted by asterisks

DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: June 4, 1992

SENATE: July 23, 1992

DATE OF APPROVAL: August 20, 1992

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes

SENATE: Yes

FISCAL NOTE: Yes

VETO MESSAGE: No

MESSAGE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

See newspaper clippings--attached.

KBG:pp

[SECOND REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 873

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 1992

By Assemblymen KAMIN, GARRETT, Arnone, Kavanaugh, Penn,
Wolfe, Assemblywoman Haines, Assemblymen Felice, W. Brown,
Pascrell, Assemblywoman J. Smith, Assemblymen Lance,
Mattison, Kenny, Watson, DiGaetano, Bagger and Gibson

1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Emergency Medical Service
2 Helicopter Response Program, supplementing chapter 3 of Title
3 39 of the Revised Statutes and P.L.1986, c.106.

4
5 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the
6 State of New Jersey:

7 1. In addition to the motor vehicle registration fees imposed
8 pursuant to the provisions of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised
9 Statutes, the director shall impose and collect an additional fee
10 of \$1 to be deposited in the New Jersey Emergency Medical
11 Service Helicopter Response Program Fund created pursuant to
12 section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending before the
13 Legislature as this bill).

14 2. a. There is established ²in the General Fund² a ²special
15 dedicated² fund to be known as the New Jersey Emergency
16 Medical Service Helicopter Response Program Fund ²[and] which
17 shall be² administered by the State Treasurer. The Treasurer
18 shall credit to the fund all moneys received pursuant to section 1
19 of P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as
20 this bill). Any interest earned on moneys in the fund shall be
21 credited to the fund.

22 b. ²[Moneys] From the moneys² in the fund ²there² shall be
23 ²[allocated by the Treasurer] annually appropriated an amount
24 neccesary² to pay ²the² reasonable and necessary expenses
25 ²[incurred in implementing] of the operation of² the New Jersey
26 Emergency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program
27 created pursuant to P.L.1986, c.106 (C.26:2K-35 et seq.). ²[¹Six
28 months after the effective date of this section and every six
29 months thereafter, the Health commissioner shall report to the
30 Joint Budget Oversight Committee, or its successor, the Senate
31 Health and Human Services Committee and the Assembly Health
32 and Human Services Committee. The report shall contain, but
33 not be limited to, cost analyses concerning the response program
34 activities including the number of flights, types of accidents,
35 hours spent waiting at accident sites, and fuel and maintenance
36 expenses.¹ At] Moneys remaining in the fund, and any
37 unexpended balance of appropriations from the fund, at² the end
38 of ²[the] each² fiscal year, ²[any moneys remaining in the fund
39 after the payment of expenses]² shall be ²reappropriated and²
40 deposited ²[into the General Fund for general State purposes] in a

EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the
above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly AAP committee amendments adopted May 18, 1992.

² Assembly floor amendments adopted May 28, 1992.

1 special capital maintenance reserve account within the fund.
2 Moneys in the special capital maintenance reserve account shall
3 be used exclusively for capital replacement and major
4 maintenance of helicopter equipment².

5 ²c. Six months after the effective date of this section and
6 every six months thereafter, the Health commissioner shall
7 report to the Joint Budget Oversight Committee, or its successor,
8 the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and the
9 Assembly Health and Human Services Committee. The report
10 shall contain, but not be limited to, cost analyses concerning the
11 response program activities including the number of flights, types
12 of accidents, hours spent waiting at accident sites, and fuel and
13 maintenance expenses.²

14 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
15 after enactment.

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20 Assesses additional fee of \$1 for motor vehicle registration to
21 fund helicopter ambulance program.

ASSEMBLY, No. 873

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 1992

By Assemblymen KAMIN and GARRETT

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DO NOT REMOVE

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2 Helicopter Response Program, supplementing chapter 3 of Title
3 39 of the Revised Statutes and P.L.1986, c.106.

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5 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
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7 1. In addition to the motor vehicle registration fees imposed
8 pursuant to the provisions of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised
9 Statutes, the director shall impose and collect an additional fee
10 of \$1 to be deposited in the New Jersey Emergency Medical
11 Service Helicopter Response Program Fund created pursuant to
12 section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending before the
13 Legislature as this bill).

14 2. a. There is established a fund to be known as the New
15 Jersey Emergency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program
16 Fund and administered by the State Treasurer. The Treasurer
17 shall credit to the fund all moneys received pursuant to section 1
18 of P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as
19 this bill). Any interest earned on moneys in the fund shall be
20 credited to the fund.

21 b. Moneys in the fund shall be allocated by the Treasurer to pay
22 reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in implementing the
23 New Jersey Emergency Medical Service Helicopter Response
24 Program created pursuant to P.L.1986, c.106 (C.26:2K-35 et
25 seq.). At the end of the fiscal year, any moneys remaining in the
26 fund after the payment of expenses shall be deposited into the
27 General Fund for general State purposes.

28 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the third month
29 after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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34 This bill imposes an additional fee of \$1 for the registration of
35 motor vehicles to provide funding for the New Jersey Emergency
36 Medical Service Helicopter Response Program established by
37 P.L.1986, c.106 (C.26:2K-35 et seq.) and administered by the
38 Department of Health.

39 This program uses helicopters, which are operated and
40 maintained by State Police officers, to transport acutely ill and
41 injured patients to hospitals. The helicopters are staffed by
42 advanced life support personnel under the direction of a mobile
43 intensive care program. However, the Governor's recommended
44 budget for Fiscal Year 1992 would eliminate \$1.5 million from
45 the State Police budget for helicopter operations and \$612,000

1 from the Department of Health budget for grants to the
2 subcontracting hospitals for medical costs such as medical
3 personnel, medical equipment and supplies.

4 Under the provisions of this bill, a fee of \$1 would be assessed
5 in addition to the registration fees imposed pursuant to chapter 3
6 of Title 39 for the registration of motor vehicles. These moneys
7 would be allocated by the State Treasurer to the New Jersey
8 Emergency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program Fund,
9 created by the bill, to provide a continuous funding source for
10 this program. At the end of a fiscal year, any moneys remaining
11 in the fund after the payment of program expenses would be
12 deposited into the General Fund for general State purposes.

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17 Assesses additional fee of \$1 for motor vehicle registration to
18 fund helicopter ambulance program.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 873

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 18, 1992

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 873, with committee amendments.

Assembly Bill No. 873, as amended, imposes an additional fee of \$1 on motor vehicle registrations to provide funding for the New Jersey Emergency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program, administered by the Department of Health. This program uses helicopters, operated and maintained by the State Police, to transport acutely ill and injured patients to hospitals. The helicopters are staffed by advanced life support personnel under the direction of a mobile intensive care program.

Under the provisions of this bill, a fee of \$1 would be assessed in addition to the registration fees imposed pursuant to chapter 3 of Title 39 for the registration of motor vehicles, and the additional fee would be credited to the New Jersey Emergency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program Fund. Fund monies would be allocated to expenses incurred in implementing the New Jersey Emergency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program, with any annual excess being deposited into the General Fund. Each six months the Commissioner of the Department of Health would report to the Joint Budget Oversight Committee and the Legislative health committees on the cost of response program activities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Legislative Fiscal Estimate stated that the bill would generate approximately \$6 million, which is based on the current number of motor vehicles registered.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The amendments add to the bill the provision requiring semi-annual reports to the Legislature concerning the costs of the program.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[SECOND REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 873

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 8, 1992

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 873 [2R].

Assembly Bill No. 873 [2R] imposes an additional fee of \$1 on motor vehicle registrations to provide funding for the New Jersey Emergency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program, administered by the Department of Health. This program uses helicopters, operated and maintained by the State Police, to transport acutely ill and injured patients to hospitals. The helicopters are staffed by advanced life support personnel under the direction of a mobile intensive care program.

Under the provisions of this bill, a fee of \$1 would be assessed in addition to the registration fees imposed pursuant to chapter 3 of Title 39 for the registration of motor vehicles, and the additional fee would be credited to the New Jersey Emergency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program Fund. The bill provides that the amount of fees collected in excess of operational expenditures and other moneys remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year are to be reserved for capital expenses of the program. Each six months the Commissioner of the Department of Health would report to the Joint Budget Oversight Committee and the Legislative health committees on the cost of response program activities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that the bill will generate approximately \$6 million annually. This estimate is based on the current number of motor vehicles registered.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 873
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: June 2, 1992

Assembly Bill No. 873 of 1992 imposes an additional \$1 fee for the registration of a motor vehicle to provide funding for the New Jersey Emergency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program. The Department of Health administers the program, and the Division of State Police in the Department of Law and Public Safety operates and maintains the helicopters which are used to transport acutely ill and injured patients to hospitals. Currently, this program is funded by General Fund revenues.

The bill establishes a special fund, the New Jersey Emergency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program Fund, to receive the additional \$1 fee. The Treasurer would be responsible for allocating the moneys in the fund to defray the costs of the program. At the end of the fiscal year, any moneys remaining in the fund after the payment of expenses would be deposited into the General Fund.

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that this bill would generate annual revenue of approximately \$6 million. This figure represents the \$1 additional fee multiplied by six million, the current number of motor vehicles registrations paid annually.

OLS estimates the annual cost of providing the helicopter response service, based on current operating costs, at approximately \$5.3 million. Included in this estimate are the following costs: \$900,000 for the salaries for 16 pilots and two mechanics, \$112,000 for cash-in-lieu of maintenance, \$306,000 for fringe benefits, \$12,800 for clothing allowance, \$1,074,000 for helicopter maintenance, \$195,000 for fuel, \$179,000 for training, \$27,000 for other equipment maintenance, \$25,000 for other equipment, \$1,343,000 for the last master lease payment for two helicopters and \$1,175,000 for grants to the University Hospital in Newark and the West Jersey Hospital in Voorhees Township, which provide the program's medical services. Assuming an inflation rate of 5 percent, costs for the next two years are estimated at \$4.0 million and \$4.2 million, respectively.

Therefore, enactment of this bill will provide sufficient revenues to cover program costs for the next three years, while providing \$700,000 of General Fund revenues in the first year, \$2,000,000 in the second and \$1,800,000 in the third, subject to changes in the number of motor vehicle registrations.

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

CN-001
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Release: Thursday
August 20, 1992

GOVERNOR FLORIO SIGNS BILL FUNDING MEDIVAC PROGRAM ***Funding to Provide 24-Hour Air Ambulance Service***

NEPTUNE -- A 24-hour emergency helicopter program which airlifts critically sick or injured patients to hospitals got off the ground today under legislation signed by Governor Jim Florio, giving the program a stable source of funding.

"This legislation means that New Jersey will be able to fully fund our Emergency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program. It creates a stable funding source to pilot and maintain our rescue helicopters. It provides grants to the hospitals that supply our highly-trained medical staff and equipment. And, for the first time, we will be able to extend emergency helicopter serve 24 hours a day," said Governor Florio, as he signed the legislation at the Jersey Shore Medical Center Heliport.

"Now patients will have rapid access to highly professional medical help anywhere in our state, anytime disaster strikes," he said.

The New Jersey Emergency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program (Medivac) uses two State Police helicopters to transport acutely ill and injured patients to hospitals. The helicopters are staffed by advanced life support personnel under the direction of a mobile intensive care program. Since the program began in 1988 as a 16-hour a day service, more than 3,600 patients have been airlifted to hospitals for medical care. The helicopters are based at the University of Medicine and Dentistry in Newark and at South Jersey Hospital/Cooper Medical Center in Camden.

Under the new law, a \$1 dollar fee will be assessed on motor vehicle registrations and dedicated to provide annual funding for the program. The fee is estimated to generate nearly \$5.8 million per year and will allow the program to be

- over -

expanded the program to 24 hours. The fee will begin November 1 with 24-hour service expected to follow shortly.

During the bill signing, Governor Florio acknowledged David Kreuz, a 32-year-old Princeton Junction resident who lost his leg in a car accident nearly two years ago. While changing a tire on the New Jersey Turnpike, Mr. Kreuz was hit by another vehicle. With the assistance of a Medivac helicopter, he was airlifted to a hospital emergency room within eight minutes and believes the program saved his life.

"The spirit we see in David Kreuz is the spirit that has kept New Jersey's air ambulance flying against incredible odds -- a brutal national recession and a state budget that cut many of New Jersey's critical health services to the bone," Governor Florio said. "Medivac made the crucial difference between life and death for David. And David has returned that gift a thousand times by becoming such a strong voice for Medivac."

"Emergencies and accidents aren't convenient. They can happen anywhere and at any time of day. The help that counts is the help that's there when you need it," he said.

The bill, A 873/S 282, was sponsored by Assemblypersons Richard Kamin and Scott Garrett, and Senator John Ewing.

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