

30:1-1.1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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(Social services hotline)

NJSA: 30:1-1.1
LAWS OF: 1991 CHAPTER: 524
BILL NO: A4701
SPONSOR(S): Bryant and others
DATE INTRODUCED: April 15, 1991
COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY: Health and Human Services; Appropriations
SENATE: Institutions, Health & Human Services
AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes Amendments during passage
denoted by asterisks
DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: January 8, 1992
SENATE: January 13, 1992
DATE OF APPROVAL: January 21, 1992
FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:
SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes
COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes 12-5-91 & 12-9-91
SENATE: Yes
FISCAL NOTE: No
VETO MESSAGE: No
MESSAGE ON SIGNING: No
FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:
REPORTS: No
HEARINGS: Yes
974.90 New Jersey. Legislature. Assembly.
S678 Health & Human Services Committee.
1991 Public hearing on A4700 thru A4705, held 7-9-91, 7-30-91, 8-
23-91, and 10-22-91, Newark, Trenton, Atlantic City, Stratford,
N.J., 1991.

KBG:pp

[FIRST REPRINT]
ASSEMBLY, No. 4701

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED APRIL 15, 1991

By Assemblymen BRYANT, DUCH, Baker, Gill,
Scerni, Spadaro, Batten and Pascrell

1 AN ACT establishing a comprehensive social services information
2 hotline in the Department of Human Services and
3 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.
4

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

7 1. a. The Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation
8 with the Commissioners of Community Affairs, Health and Labor,
9 shall establish and maintain on a 24-hour daily basis a
10 comprehensive social services information toll-free telephone
11 hotline service, operating through one of the existing telephone
12 hotline services of the department. The hotline service shall use
13 a computerized Statewide social services data bank to be
14 developed by the Department of Human Services ¹and shall
15 include among its staff persons who speak English and Spanish¹.
16 The hotline service shall receive and respond to calls from
17 persons seeking information and referrals concerning agencies
18 and programs which provide various social services, including but
19 not limited to: child care, child abuse emergency response, job
20 skills training, services for victims of domestic violence, alcohol
21 and drug abuse, home health care, senior citizen programs, rental
22 assistance, services for persons with developmental disabilities,
23 mental health programs¹, emergency shelter assistance, family
24 planning, legal services, assistance for runaways¹ and services for
25 the deaf ¹and hearing impaired¹, as well as information about
26 public assistance, Medicaid, Pharmaceutical Assistance to the
27 Aged and Disabled, Lifeline, Hearing Aid Assistance for the Aged
28 and Disabled, food stamps and home energy assistance.

29 b. The Commissioner of Human Services, in conjunction with
30 the Commissioners of Community Affairs, Health and Labor,
31 shall take such actions as are necessary to consolidate existing
32 State telephone hotline services into the comprehensive social
33 services information toll-free telephone hotline service, and
34 thereby eliminate duplicative telephone hotline services.

35 2. This act shall take effect ¹[immediately] on July 1, 1992,
36 except that the commissioner may take such actions prior to the
37 effective date as are necessary to effectuate the purposes of this
38 act¹.

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 numeral¹ has been adopted as follows:

¹ Assembly AHH committee amendments adopted January 6, 1992.

A4701 [1R]

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HUMAN SERVICES

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Establishes comprehensive social services information hotline in
the Department of Human Services.

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ASSEMBLY, No. 4701
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED APRIL 15, 1991

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15 service shall receive and respond to calls from persons seeking
16 information and referrals concerning agencies and programs
17 which provide various social services, including but not limited
18 to: child care, child abuse emergency response, job skills
19 training, services for victims of domestic violence, alcohol and
20 drug abuse, home health care, senior citizen programs, rental
21 assistance, services for persons with developmental disabilities,
22 mental health programs and services for the deaf, as well as
23 information about public assistance, Medicaid, Pharmaceutical
24 Assistance to the Aged and Disabled, Lifeline, Hearing Aid
25 Assistance for the Aged and Disabled, food stamps and home
26 energy assistance.

27 b. The Commissioner of Human Services, in conjunction with
28 the Commissioners of Community Affairs, Health and Labor,
29 shall take such actions as are necessary to consolidate existing
30 State telephone hotline services into the comprehensive social
31 services information toll-free telephone hotline service, and
32 thereby eliminate duplicative telephone hotline services.

33 2. This act shall take effect immediately.
34
35

36 STATEMENT
37

38 This bill establishes a 24-hour social services information
39 hotline in the Department of Human Services to serve as a
40 comprehensive information and referral source for social service
41 programs and agencies throughout the State. This new hotline
42 will serve to consolidate and expand the information and

ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4701

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 5, 1991

The Assembly Health and Human Services Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 4701 with committee amendments.

As amended by the committee, this bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the Commissioners of Community Affairs, Health and Labor, to establish and maintain on a 24-hour daily basis a comprehensive social services information toll-free telephone hotline service, operating through one of the existing telephone hotline services of the department. The hotline service shall use a computerized Statewide social services data bank to be developed by the Department of Human Services. The hotline service shall receive and respond to calls from persons seeking information and referrals concerning agencies and programs which provide various social services, including but not limited to: child care, child abuse emergency response, job skills training, services for victims of domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse, home health care, senior citizen programs, rental assistance, services for persons with developmental disabilities, mental health programs, emergency shelter assistance, family planning, legal services, assistance for runaways and services for the deaf and hearing impaired, as well as information about public assistance, Medicaid, Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled, Lifeline, Hearing Aid Assistance for the Aged and Disabled, food stamps and home energy assistance.

The amended bill further provides that the Commissioner of Human Services, in conjunction with the Commissioners of Community Affairs, Health and Labor, shall take such actions as are necessary to consolidate existing State telephone hotline services into the comprehensive social services information toll-free telephone hotline service, and thereby eliminate duplicative telephone hotline services.

The committee amended the bill to:

- add emergency shelter assistance, family planning, legal services, assistance for runaways and services for the hearing impaired (as well as the deaf) to the list of services for which the hotline would provide information and referrals;
- require that the hotline include among its staff persons who speak English and Spanish; and
- change the effective date from immediately to July 1, 1992.

This bill is part of a legislative package that is designed to effect significant reforms in the AFDC program and address the needs of the economically disadvantaged in this State.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[FIRST REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4701

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 9, 1991

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4701 (1R).

Assembly Bill No. 4701 (1R) directs the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the Commissioners of Community Affairs, Health and Labor, to establish and maintain a 24-hour comprehensive social services toll-free telephone hotline. The hotline service shall use a computerized Statewide social services data bank to be developed by the Department of Human Services. The service shall receive and respond to calls from persons seeking information and referrals concerning agencies and programs which provide various social services, including but not limited to: child care, child abuse emergency response, job skills training, services for victims of domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse, home health care, senior citizen programs, rental assistance, services for persons with developmental disabilities, mental health programs, emergency shelter assistance, family planning, legal services, assistance for runaways and services for the deaf and hearing impaired, as well as information about public assistance, Medicaid, Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled, Lifeline, Hearing Aid Assistance for the Aged and Disabled, food stamps and home energy assistance.

The new hotline will serve to consolidate and expand the information and referral resources currently available through a number of other State hotlines.

This bill is part of a legislative package that is designed to effect significant reforms in the AFDC program and address the needs of the economically disadvantaged in this State.

FISCAL IMPACT:

In the Legislative Fiscal Estimate to this bill, the Office of Legislative Services (OLS) stated that without any specific information from the department, OLS could not estimate costs or savings from this bill. It was noted that the net effect should not be significant in light of total departmental administrative costs.

SENATE INSTITUTIONS, HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[FIRST REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4701

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 9, 1992

The Senate Institutions, Health and Welfare Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 4701 (1R).

This bill directs the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the Commissioners of Community Affairs, Health and Labor, to establish and maintain on a 24-hour daily basis a comprehensive social services information toll-free telephone hotline service, operating through one of the existing telephone hotline services of the department. The hotline service shall use a computerized Statewide social services data bank to be developed by the Department of Human Services. The hotline service shall receive and respond to calls from persons seeking information and referrals concerning agencies and programs which provide various social services, including but not limited to: child care, child abuse emergency response, job skills training, services for victims of domestic violence, alcohol and drug abuse, home health care, senior citizen programs, rental assistance, services for persons with developmental disabilities, mental health programs, emergency shelter assistance, family planning, legal services, assistance for runaways and services for the deaf and hearing impaired, as well as information about public assistance, Medicaid, Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled, Lifeline, Hearing Aid Assistance for the Aged and Disabled, food stamps and home energy assistance.

The bill further provides that the Commissioner of Human Services, in conjunction with the Commissioners of Community Affairs, Health and Labor, shall take such actions as are necessary to consolidate existing State telephone hotline services into the comprehensive social services information toll-free telephone hotline service, and thereby eliminate duplicative telephone hotline services.