

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 26:2K-35
to 26:2K-38

"Emergency Medical
Services Helicopter Re-
sponse Plan"

LAWS OF: 1986

CHAPTER 106

BILL NO: A1806

Sponsor(s): Rocco and others

Date Introduced: January 27, 1986

Committee: Assembly: Health and Human Resources; Appropriations

Senate: ~~Institutions, Health and Welfare~~
Revenue, Finance and Appropriations

Amended during passage: Yes

Substituted for S1692 (not attached
since identical to ~~A1646~~ ^{A1806}). Amendments
during passage denoted by asterisks.

Date of Passage: Assembly:

June 9, 1986

Senate:

June 26, 1986

Date of Approval: Sept. 5, 1986

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee statement: Assembly Yes 5-22-86 & 5-5-86

Senate Yes

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: No

Message on Signing: No

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

9-5-86

[SECOND OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1806

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 1986

By Assemblymen ROCCO, SHUSTED, HAYTAIAN, COLBURN,
SHINN, MORAN, HENDRICKSON, SINGER, CHINNICI and
FRANKS

AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Emergency Medical Service
Helicopter Response Program and an emergency medical trans-
portation service, amending P. L. 1984, c. 146 and supplementing
Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. (New section) As used in this act:

2 a. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department
3 of Health.

4 b. "Dispatch" means the coordinated request for and dispatch
5 of the emergency medical service helicopter reponse unit by a
6 central communications center located in the service area, follow-
7 ing protocols developed by the mobile intensive care hospital, the
8 regional trauma **or critical care** center*, *the commissioner** and
8A the superintendent.

9 c. "Emergency medical service helicopter response unit" means
10 a specially equipped hospital-based emergency medical service
11 helicoper staffed by **[mobile intensive care paramedics and critical*
12 *care nurses]** **advanced life support personnel** and operated for
13 the provision of advanced life support services under the medical
14 direction of a mobile intensive care program and the regional
15 trauma ***or critical care*** center authorized by the commissioner.

16 d. "Emergency medical transportation" means the prehospital
17 or interhospital transportation of an acutely ill or injured patient

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 printed in italics *thus* is new matter.

Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:

*—Assembly committee amendments adopted May 5, 1986.

**—Assembly committee amendments adopted May 22, 1986.

18 by **[an]** *a dedicated* emergency medical services helicopter
 19 response unit **[owned]** *operated*, maintained and piloted by
 20 the Division of State Police of the Department of Law and Public
 20A Safety *pursuant to regulations adopted by the commissioner under*
 20B *chapter 40 of Title 8 of the New Jersey Administrative Code*.

21 e. "Medical direction" means the medical control and medical
 22 orders transmitted from the physician of the mobile intensive care
 23 hospital or from the physician at the regional trauma *or critical*
 24 *care* center to the staff of the helicopter. The mobile intensive
 25 care unit coordinating center and regional trauma *or critical*
 26 *care* center shall have the ability to cross patch and consult with
 26A each other *as approved by the commissioner*.

27 f. "Mobile intensive care hospital" means a hospital authorized
 28 by the commissioner to develop and maintain a mobile intensive
 29 care unit to provide advanced life support services in accordance
 30 with P. L. 1984, c. 146 (C. 26:2K-7 et al.).

31 g. "Regional trauma center" means a *State designated* level
 32 one hospital-based trauma center equipped and staffed to provide
 33 emergency medical services to an accident or trauma victim, in-
 34 cluding, but not limited to, the level one trauma centers at the
 35 University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-University
 36 Hospital in Newark and the Cooper Hospital/University Medical
 37 Center in Camden.

38 *h. "Critical care center" means a hospital authorized by the*
 39 *commissioner to provide regional critical care services such as*
 40 *trauma, burns, spinal cord, cardiac, poison or neonatal care.*

41 **[h.]** *i.* "Superintendent" means the Superintendent of
 42 the Division of State Police of the Department of Law and Public
 43 Safety.

1 2. (New section) a. There is established the New Jersey Emer-
 2 gency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program in the Di-
 3 vision of Local and Community Health Services of the Department
 4 of Health. The commissioner shall designate a mobile intensive
 5 care hospital and a regional trauma *or critical care* center
 6 which shall develop and maintain a hospital-based emergency med-
 7 ical service helicopter response unit. The commissioner shall
 8 designate at least two units in the State, of which no less than one
 9 unit each shall be designated for the northern and southern por-
 10 tions of the State, respectively.

11 b. Each emergency medical service helicopter response unit shall
 12 be staffed by at least two persons **[**, one of whom is a paramedic
 13 and one of whom is a registered professional nurse**]** trained in
 14 advanced life support **[nursing]** *and approved by the commis-*

15 sioner*. The staff of the emergency medical service helicopter
 16 response unit shall render life support services to an accident or
 17 trauma victim, as necessary, in the course of providing emergency
 18 medical transportation.

1 3. (New section) The Division of State Police of the Department
 2 of Law and Public Safety shall establish an emergency medical
 3 transportation service to provide medical transportation service
 4 pursuant to this amendatory and supplementary act. The super-
 5 intendent shall ~~*[acquire]~~* *operate* and maintain at least one
 6 *dedicated* helicopter for each emergency medical service heli-
 7 copter response unit designated by the commissioner pursuant to
 8 section 2 of this amendatory and supplementary act.

1 ~~*[4.~~ (New section) Each emergency medical service helicopter
 2 response unit established pursuant to section 2 of this amendatory
 3 and supplementary act and each emergency medical transportation
 4 service helicopter acquired pursuant to section 3 of this amenda-
 5 tory and supplementary act shall have a governing committee.
 6 The committee shall consist of the president of the mobile intensive
 7 care hospital, the president of the hospital containing the regional
 8 trauma center, the medical director of the mobile intensive care
 9 hospital, the medical director of the regional trauma center and the
 10 superintendent, or their designees. The committee may designate
 11 a coordinator and support personnel to handle the coordination
 12 of services.

13 The committee is responsible for establishing rules and pro-
 14 cedures for delivery of service and for considering the recom-
 15 mendations of the advisory council established pursuant to section
 16 10 of P. L. 1984, c. 146 (C. 26:2K-16).]*

1 ~~*[5.]~~* ~~*4.~~ (New section) No mobile intensive care paramedic,
 2 licensed physician, hospital or its board of trustees, officers and
 3 members of the medical staff, nurses or other employees of the
 4 hospital, first aid, ambulance or rescue squad members or officers,
 5 is liable for any civil damages as the result of an act or the omis-
 6 sion of an act committed while training for or in rendering ad-
 7 vanced life support services in good faith and in accordance with
 8 this amendatory and supplementary act.

1 ~~*[6.]~~* ~~*5.~~ Section 10 of P. L. 1984, c. 146 (C. 26:2K-16) is
 2 amended to read as follows:

3 10. The commissioner shall establish a State mobile intensive
 4 care advisory council which shall advise the department on all
 5 matters of mobile intensive care services, *the Emergency Medical*
 6 *Service Helicopter Response Program and emergency medical*
 7 *transportation*. The council shall select a chairman annually to

8 chair the meetings and coordinate the activities of the advisory
9 council. The chairman shall appoint subcommittees to review and
10 recommend policy on subjects including, but not limited to, ad-
11 vanced life support training programs, advanced life support
12 patient care equipment, biomedical and telecommunications equip-
13 ment and procedures, [and] treatment protocols *and helicopter*
14 *equipment and procedures* as well as other medical matters.

1 ***[7.]*** *c.* This act shall take effect on the 90th day following
2 enactment.

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND PROVIDERS

Establishes the New Jersey Emergency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program and an emergency medical transportation service.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1806

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 1986

By Assemblymen ROCCO, SHUSTED, HAYTAIAN, COLBURN,
SHINN, MORAN, HENDRICKSON, SINGER, CHINNICI and
FRANKS

AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Emergency Medical Service
Helicopter Response Program and an emergency medical trans-
portation service, amending P. L. 1984, c. 146 and supplementing
Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

1 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. (New section) As used in this act:

2 a. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department
3 of Health.

4 b. "Dispatch" means the coordinated request for and dispatch
5 of the emergency medical service helicopter reponse unit by a
6 central communications center located in the service area, follow-
7 ing protocols developed by the mobile intensive care hospital, the
8 regional trauma center and the superintendent.

9 c. "Emergency medical service helicopter response unit" means
10 a specially equipped hospital-based emergency medical service
11 helicopter staffed by mobile intensive care paramedics and critical
12 care nurses and operated for the provision of advanced life sup-
13 port services under the medical direction of a mobile intensive
14 care program and the regional trauma center authorized by the
15 commissioner.

16 d. "Emergency medical transportation" means the prehospital
17 or interhospital transportation of an acutely ill or injured patient

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 printed in italics thus is new matter.

18 by an emergency medical services helicopter response unit owned,
19 maintained and piloted by the Division of State Police of the De-
20 partment of Law and Public Safety.

21 e. "Medical direction" means the medical control and medical
22 orders transmitted from the physician of the mobile intensive care
23 hospital or from the physician at the regional trauma center to
24 the staff of the helicopter. The mobile intensive care unit coordin-
25 ating center and regional trauma center shall have the ability to
26 cross patch and consult with each other.

27 f. "Mobile intensive care hospital" means a hospital authorized
28 by the commissioner to develop and maintain a mobile intensive
29 care unit to provide advanced life support services in accordance
30 with P. L. 1984, c. 146 (C. 26:2K-7 et al.).

31 g. "Regional trauma center" means a level one hospital-based
32 trauma center equipped and staffed to provide emergency medical
33 services to an accident or trauma victim, including, but not limited
34 to, the level one trauma centers at the University of Medicine and
35 Dentistry of New Jersey-University Hospital in Newark and the
36 Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center in Camden.

37 h. "Superintendent" means the Superintendent of the Division
38 of State Police of the Department of Law and Public Safety.

1 2. (New section) a. There is established the New Jersey Emer-
2 gency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program in the Di-
3 vision of Local and Community Health Services of the Department
4 of Health. The commissioner shall designate a mobile intensive
5 care hospital and a regional trauma center which shall develop
6 and maintain a hospital-based emergency medical service heli-
7 copter response unit. The commissioner shall designate at least
8 two units in the State, of which no less than one unit each shall
9 be designated for the northern and southern portions of the State,
10 respectively.

11 b. Each emergency medical service helicopter response unit shall
12 be staffed by at least two persons, one of whom is a paramedic
13 and one of whom is a registered professional nurse trained in
14 advanced life support nursing. The staff of the emergency medical
15 service helicopter response unit shall render life support services
16 to an accident or trauma victim, as necessary, in the course of
17 providing emergency medical transportation.

1 3. (New section) The Division of State Police of the Department
2 of Law and Public Safety shall establish an emergency medical
3 transportation service to provide medical transportation service
4 pursuant to this amendatory and supplementary act. The super-

5 intendent shall acquire and maintain at least one helicopter for
6 each emergency medical service helicopter response unit desig-
7 nated by the commissioner pursuant to section 2 of this amendatory
8 and supplementary act.

1 4. (New section) Each emergency medical service helicopter
2 response unit established pursuant to section 2 of this amendatory
3 and supplementary act and each emergency medical transportation
4 service helicopter acquired pursuant to section 3 of this amenda-
5 tory and supplementary act shall have a governing committee.
6 The committee shall consist of the president of the mobile intensive
7 care hospital, the president of the hospital containing the regional
8 trauma center, the medical director of the mobile intensive care
9 hospital, the medical director of the regional trauma center and the
10 superintendent, or their designees. The committee may designate
11 a coordinator and support personnel to handle the coordination
12 of services.

13 The committee is responsible for establishing rules and pro-
14 cedures for delivery of service and for considering the recom-
15 mendations of the advisory council established pursuant to section
16 10 of P. L. 1984, c. 146 (C. 26:2K-16).

1 5. (New section) No mobile intensive care paramedic, licensed
2 physician, hospital or its board of trustees, officers and members
3 of the medical staff, nurses or other employees of the hospital,
4 first aid, ambulance or rescue squad members or officers, is liable
5 for any civil damages as the result of an act or the omission of
6 an act committed while training for or in rendering advanced life
7 support services in good faith and in accordance with this amenda-
8 tory and supplementary act.

1 6. Section 10 of P. L. 1984, c. 146 (C. 26:2K-16) is amended to
2 read as follows:

3 10. The commissioner shall establish a State mobile intensive
4 care advisory council which shall advise the department on all
5 matters of mobile intensive care services, *the Emergency Medical*
6 *Service Helicopter Response Program and emergency medical*
7 *transportation*. The council shall select a chairman annually to
8 chair the meetings and coordinate the activities of the advisory
9 council. The chairman shall appoint subcommittees to review and
10 recommend policy on subjects including, but not limited to, ad-
11 vanced life support training programs, advanced life support
12 patient care equipment, biomedical and telecommunications equip-
13 ment and procedures, [and] treatment protocols *and helicopter*
14 *equipment and procedures* as well as other medical matters.

1 7. This act shall take effect on the 90th day following enactment.

STATEMENT

This bill will allow for the establishment of at least two hospital-based emergency medical service (EMS) helicopter response units. It is intended to create a cost-effective emergency service by utilizing the resources of the State Police, the mobile intensive care hospital and the regional trauma center.

Hospital-based EMS helicopters have proved their effectiveness throughout Europe and the United States. Thirty EMS hospital-based helicopters are in service today in West Germany. Over 100 such programs exist within the continental United States.

These units will provide rural areas with a mechanism to improve their pre-hospital care systems, thereby decreasing patient morbidity and mortality through more advanced and timely pre-hospital emergency medical intervention. Mobile intensive care services are currently approved for the majority of New Jersey residents under existing law (P. L. 1984, c. 146; C. 26:2K-7 et al.), but they are not available in rural areas where it is felt that these services would not be cost-effective and that the paramedics' skills would deteriorate due to a low volume of calls.

The EMS helicopters will respond directly to the scene of a serious motor vehicle or industrial accident to stabilize and airlift the most critically injured patients to the most appropriate trauma facility. This will effectively reduce the number of deaths and disabilities, as well as the duplication of costly medical services. The addition of this vital service to New Jersey's communities will save innumerable dollars that are now spent on post-accident lifetime disability and rehabilitation services.

Additionally, the EMS helicopters will provide inter-hospital transport capability for high-risk pregnant mothers, premature newborns, critically ill children, burn victims and cardiac patients, all of whom are too ill to be transferred to tertiary care facilities by conventional ground transportation.

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND PROVIDERS

Provides for EMS helicopter units.

Establishes the New Jersey Emergency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program and an emergency medical transportation service.

ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1806

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 5, 1986

The Assembly Health and Human Resources Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1806 with committee amendments.

This bill establishes the New Jersey Emergency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program in the Division of Local and Community Health Services of the Department of Health. The program is intended to provide a cost-effective emergency medical transportation service for residents of rural areas where mobile intensive care services are not available and for accident victims and critically ill persons for whom this service would be more appropriate than conventional ground transportation.

As amended by the committee, the bill allows for the creation of at least two hospital-based emergency medical service (EMS) helicopter response units, to be designated for the northern and southern portions of the State, respectively, with each unit to be staffed by advanced life support personnel. The staff would render life support services to an accident or trauma victim, as necessary, in the course of providing emergency medical transportation.

Each EMS helicopter response unit would be developed and maintained by a mobile intensive care hospital and a regional trauma center designated by the Commissioner of Health; and the helicopters themselves would be operated and maintained by the Division of State Police of the Department of Law and Public Safety.

The committee amended the bill at the request of the sponsor to stipulate that an EMS helicopter response unit shall be staffed by advanced life support personnel, rather than specifying mobile intensive care paramedics or critical care nurses; to specify that the regional trauma center is a hospital-based trauma center designated as such by the State; and to delete the requirement that each EMS helicopter response unit establish a governing committee.

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]
ASSEMBLY, No. 1806

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 27, 1986

By Assemblymen ROCCO, SHUSTED, HAYTAIAN, COLBURN,
SHINN, MORAN, HENDRICKSON, SINGER, CHINNICI and
FRANKS

AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Emergency Medical Service
Helicopter Response Program and an emergency medical trans-
portation service, amending P. L. 1984, c. 146 and supplementing
Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. (New section) As used in this act:

2 a. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department
3 of Health.

4 b. "Dispatch" means the coordinated request for and dispatch
5 of the emergency medical service helicopter response unit by a
6 central communications center located in the service area, follow-
7 ing protocols developed by the mobile intensive care hospital, the
8 regional trauma **or critical care* center*, the commissioner* and*
8A the superintendent.

9 c. "Emergency medical service helicopter response unit" means
10 a specially equipped hospital-based emergency medical service
11 helicopter staffed by **[mobile intensive care paramedics and critical*
12 *care nurses]* *advanced life support personnel** and operated for
13 the provision of advanced life support services under the medical
14 direction of a mobile intensive care program and the regional
15 trauma center authorized by the commissioner.

16 d. "Emergency medical transportation" means the prehospital
17 or interhospital transportation of an acutely ill or injured patient

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 printed in italics thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:

*—Assembly committee amendments adopted May 5, 1986.

18 by ***[an]*** **a dedicated** emergency medical services helicopter
 19 response unit ***[owned]*** **operated**, maintained and piloted by
 20 the Division of State Police of the Department of Law and Public
 20A Safety **pursuant to regulations adopted by the commissioner under*
 20B *chapter 40 of Title 8 of the New Jersey Administrative Code**.

21 e. "Medical direction" means the medical control and medical
 22 orders transmitted from the physician of the mobile intensive care
 23 hospital or from the physician at the regional trauma center to
 24 the staff of the helicopter. The mobile intensive care unit coordin-
 25 ating center and regional trauma center shall have the ability to
 26 cross patch and consult with each other **as approved by the com-*
 26A *missioner**.

27 f. "Mobile intensive care hospital" means a hospital authorized
 28 by the commissioner to develop and maintain a mobile intensive
 29 care unit to provide advanced life support services in accordance
 30 with P. L. 1984, c. 146 (C. 26:2K-7 et al.).

31 g. "Regional trauma center" means a **State designated** level
 32 one hospital-based trauma center equipped and staffed to provide
 33 emergency medical services to an accident or trauma victim, in-
 34 cluding, but not limited to, the level one trauma centers at the
 35 University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-University
 36 Hospital in Newark and the Cooper Hospital/University Medical
 36A Center in Camden.

37 h. "Superintendent" means the Superintendent of the Division
 38 of State Police of the Department of Law and Public Safety.

1 2. (New section) a. There is established the New Jersey Emer-
 2 gency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program in the Di-
 3 vision of Local and Community Health Services of the Department
 4 of Health. The commissioner shall designate a mobile intensive
 5 care hospital and a regional trauma center which shall develop
 6 and maintain a hospital-based emergency medical service heli-
 7 copter response unit. The commissioner shall designate at least
 8 two units in the State, of which no less than one unit each shall
 9 be designated for the northern and southern portions of the State,
 10 respectively.

11 b. Each emergency medical service helicopter response unit shall
 12 be staffed by at least two persons ***[, one of whom is a paramedic**
 13 **and one of whom is a registered professional nurse]*** trained in
 14 advanced life support ***[nursing]*** **and approved by the commis-*
 15 *sioner**. The staff of the emergency medical service helicopter
 16 response unit shall render life support services to an accident or
 17 trauma victim, as necessary, in the course of providing emergency
 18 medical transportation.

1 3. (New section) The Division of State Police of the Department
 2 of Law and Public Safety shall establish an emergency medical
 3 transportation service to provide medical transportation service
 4 pursuant to this amendatory and supplementary act. The super-
 5 intendent shall ***[acquire]*** *operate* and maintain at least one
 6 *dedicated* helicopter for each emergency medical service heli-
 7 copter response unit designated by the commissioner pursuant to
 8 section 2 of this amendatory and supplementary act.

1 ***[4. (New section) Each** emergency medical service helicopter
 2 response unit established pursuant to section 2 of this amendatory
 3 and supplementary act and each emergency medical transportation
 4 service helicopter acquired pursuant to section 3 of this amenda-
 5 tory and supplementary act shall have a governing committee.
 6 The committee shall consist of the president of the mobile intensive
 7 care hospital, the president of the hospital containing the regional
 8 trauma center, the medical director of the mobile intensive care
 9 hospital, the medical director of the regional trauma center and the
 10 superintendent, or their designees. The committee may designate
 11 a coordinator and support personnel to handle the coordination
 12 of services.

13 The committee is responsible for establishing rules and pro-
 14 cedures for delivery of service and for considering the recom-
 15 mendations of the advisory council established pursuant to section
 16 10 of P. L. 1984, c. 146 (C. 26:2K-16).**]***

1 ***[5.]** **4.** (New section) No mobile intensive care paramedic,
 2 licensed physician, hospital or its board of trustees, officers and
 3 members of the medical staff, nurses or other employees of the
 4 hospital, first aid, ambulance or rescue squad members or officers,
 5 is liable for any civil damages as the result of an act or the omis-
 6 sion of an act committed while training for or in rendering ad-
 7 vanced life support services in good faith and in accordance with
 8 this amendatory and supplementary act.

1 ***[6.]** **5.** Section 10 of P. L. 1984, c. 146 (C. 26:2K-16) is
 2 amended to read as follows:

3 10. The commissioner shall establish a State mobile intensive
 4 care advisory council which shall advise the department on all
 5 matters of mobile intensive care services, *the Emergency Medical*
 6 *Service Helicopter Response Program and emergency medical*
 7 *transportation*. The council shall select a chairman annually to
 8 chair the meetings and coordinate the activities of the advisory
 9 council. The chairman shall appoint subcommittees to review and
 10 recommend policy on subjects including, but not limited to, ad-

11 vanced life support training programs, advanced life support
12 patient care equipment, biomedical and telecommunications equip-
13 ment and procedures, **[and]** treatment protocols *and helicopter*
14 *equipment and procedures* as well as other medical matters.

1 ***[7.]*** *c.* This act shall take effect on the 90th day following
2 enactment.

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND PROVIDERS

Establishes the New Jersey Emergency Medical Service Heli-
copter Response Program and an emergency medical transporta-
tion service.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1806

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 22, 1986

The Assembly Appropriations Committee favorably reports this bill, as amended.

Assembly Bill No. 1806 (OCR) establishes the New Jersey Emergency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program in the Division of Local and Community Health Services of the Department of Health. The program is to provide cost-effective emergency medical transportation services for residents in rural areas and for accident victims and critically ill persons needing the service rather than the conventional ground transportation.

Two hospital-based helicopter response units are to be designated with one each designated for the northern and southern portions of the State. Each is to be staffed by advanced life support personnel. The helicopters are to be operated, maintained and piloted by the Division of State Police.

Currently the State Police provides a limited helicopter ambulance service from Mercer County Airport. This is used primarily for inter-hospital transfer and not for at the scene of an accident. The helicopters do not contain the needed equipment and would have to be upgraded.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to define the term "critical care center" and to indicate that the helicopter response unit as well as the medical direction to the unit may issue from a critical care center or a trauma center. The amendment was suggested by the Department of Health.

FISCAL IMPACT:

A fiscal note has been requested however none has been received as of this date. According to the Department of Health, there would be initial year costs of approximately \$1.6 million and subsequent annual costs of approximately \$1.2 million per site. The Governor's Budget for fiscal year 1986-87 does not contain specific funding for this type of program, however the current limited helicopter ambulance service has a budget line item request of \$1,195,000.00 for the Division of State Police (Med-Evac Service) which is State-supported with no charge to the patient for the services.

SENATE REVENUE, FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 1806

[SECOND OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 16, 1986

The Senate Revenue, Finance and Appropriations Committee reported this bill favorably.

Assembly Bill No. 1806 2nd OCR establishes the New Jersey Emergency Medical Service Helicopter Response Program in the Division of Local and Community Health Services of the Department of Health. The program will provide a cost-effective emergency medical transportation service for residents of rural areas where mobile intensive care services are not available and for accident victims and critically ill persons for whom this service would be more appropriate than conventional ground transportation.

The bill allows for the creation of at least two hospital-based emergency medical service (EMS) helicopter response units, for the northern and southern portions of the State, to be staffed by advanced life support personnel. The staff would render life support services to an accident or trauma victim, as necessary, in the course of providing emergency medical transportation.

Each EMS helicopter response unit would be developed and maintained by a mobile intensive care hospital and regional trauma or critical care center designated by the Commissioner of Health. The helicopters would be operated and maintained by the Division of State Police in the Department of Law and Public Safety.

Assembly Bill No. 1806 2nd OCR is identical to Senate Bill No. 1692 Sea.

FISCAL IMPACT

Assembly Bill No. 1806 2nd OCR will create additional costs for the Departments of Health and Law and Public Safety and the designated hospitals and trauma or critical care centers. The bill makes no appropriation.