

52:27D-29.17 to 52:27D-29.22 12/21/87

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 52:27D-29:17 to 52:27D-29.22 "Home Delivered Meals Expansion Act"

LAWS OF: 1987 CHAPTER: 133

Bill No: S2662

Sponsor(s): Russo and Lynch

Date Introduced: October 20, 1986

Committee: Assembly: Appropriations

Senate: Aging; Revenue, Finance and Appropriations

Amended during passage: Yes Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks.

Date of Passage: Assembly: March 12, 1987

Senate: December 15, 1986

Date of Approval: June 3, 1987

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee statement: Assembly Yes

Senate Yes 10-27-86 and 12-8-86

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: No

Message on Signing: Yes

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

Attached:

Governor Kean's Annual message, 1-13-87-- comments as mentioned in press release.

SENATE, No. 2662

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 20, 1986

By Senators RUSSO and LYNCH

Referred to Committee on Aging

AN ACT establishing a **[Meals for Seniors on Weekends and Holidays]** *Home Delivered Meals Expansion* Program and making an appropriation therefor.

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

1 1. As used **[by]** *in* this act:

2 a. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department
3 of Community Affairs.

4 b. "Department" means the Department of Community Affairs.

5 c. "Eligible participant" means a resident of this State who is
6 60 years of age or older and homebound by reason of illness, in-
7 capacitating disability or is otherwise isolated.

8 d. "Home delivered nutrition services" means home delivered
9 meals as defined by the "Older Americans Act of 1965," Pub. L.
10 89-73 (42 U. S. C. § 3001 et seq.).

11 *e. "Program" means the Home Delivered Meals Expansion*
12 *Program in the Division on Aging, in the Department of Community*
13 *Affairs.*

1 2. The commissioner shall establish a *Home Delivered*
2 Meals **[for Seniors on Weekends and Holidays]** *Expansion*
3 Program in the Division of Aging **[established pursuant**
4 to section 2 of P. L. 1975, c. 36 (C. 52:27D-28.2)] *, in the*
5 *Department of Community Affairs,* to provide home delivered
6 nutrition services to **[homebound senior citizens]** *eligible parti-*
7 *cipants* on weekends and holidays.

1 3. **[a.]** The commissioner shall prepare guidelines **[for the**
2 Meals for Seniors on Weekends and Holidays Program.]

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:

*—Senate committee amendment adopted December 8, 1986.

**—Assembly committee amendments adopted March 9, 1987.

3 ***under which the county offices on aging, established pursuant to*
 4 *P. L. 1970, c. 248 (C. 40:23-6.38 et seq.), shall implement the Home*
 5 *Delivered Meals Expansion Program. The guidelines shall re-*
 6 *quire:***

7 ****[b.]**** ***a.*** The county offices on aging ****[shall]**** ***to***
 8 solicit proposals from existing home delivered meals providers
 9 interested in participating in the ***Home Delivered*** Meals
 10 ****[for Seniors on Weekends and Holidays]**** ***Expansion***
 11 Program****[.]****; *and***

12 ****[c.]**** ***b.*** The county offices on aging ****[shall]**** ***to***
 13 review the proposals and approve and fund****,**** within the limits
 14 of moneys allocated to them****,**** proposals which best meet the
 15 objectives of the program****[,** except in those counties where the
 16 county offices on aging are the providers**]****.

1 4. An eligible participant shall be asked for a confidential dona-
 2 tion for services under this program in an amount determined
 3 by the commissioner, however, services shall not be denied if a
 4 person cannot pay.

1 5. ****[Subject to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P. L. 1968,**
 2 **c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1 et seq.), the]**** ***The*** commissioner shall
 3 adopt the rules and regulations ***pursuant to the "Administrative*
 4 *Procedure Act," P. L. 1968, c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1 et seq.)*** necessary
 5 to effectuate the purposes of this act.

1 6. a. There is appropriated \$1,000,000.00 from the ****[General**
 2 **Fund]**** ***Casino Revenue Fund*** to the Department of Com-
 3 munity Affairs to effectuate the purposes of this act.

4 b. The department shall allocate not less than 95% of the funds
 5 appropriated for ****[this purpose]**** ***the purposes of this act***
 6 to the county offices on aging, ***and these funds shall be disbursed*
 7 *to the county offices on aging*** according to the formula used to
 8 disburse funds ***for the home delivered nutrition services pro-*
 9 *vided*** under Title III of the "Older Americans Act of 1965,"
 10 Pub. L. 89-73 (42 U. S. C. § 3001 et seq.).

11 c. ***The county shall match the*** State funds allocated to a
 12 county office on aging ****[shall be matched by the county]**** ***for*
 13 *this program*** with an amount equal to 20% of the State funds.
 14 The county share may be cash or in kind.

1 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Establishes a Home Delivered Meals Expansion Program and
 appropriates \$1 million from the Casino Revenue Fund.

1 4. An eligible participant shall be asked for a confidential dona-
 2 tion for services under this program in an amount determined
 3 by the commissioner, however, services shall not be denied if a
 4 person cannot pay.

1 5. Subject to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P. L. 1968,
 2 c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1 et seq.), the commissioner shall adopt the
 3 rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of this
 4 act.

1 6. a. There is appropriated \$1,000,000.00 from the General Fund
 2 to the Department of Community Affairs to effectuate the purposes
 3 of this act.

4 b. The department shall allocate not less than 95% of the funds
 5 appropriated for this purpose to the county offices on aging, ac-
 6 cording to the formula used to disburse funds under Title III of
 7 the "Older Americans Act of 1965," Pub. L. 89-73 (42 U. S. C. §
 8 3001 et seq.).

9 c. State funds allocated to a county office on aging shall be
 10 matched by the county with an amount equal to 20% of the State
 11 funds. The county share may be cash or in kind.

1 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill establishes a Meals for Seniors on Weekends and Holi-
 days Program within the Division of Aging in the Department of
 Community Affairs. The Commissioner of the Department of Com-
 munity Affairs shall allocate moneys appropriated to the program
 to the county offices on aging according to the formula used under
 the "Older Americans Act of 1965," Pub. L. 89-73 (42 U. S. C. §
 3001 et seq.). Each county shall match these funds with contri-
 butions in cash or in kind which are equal to 20% of the State funds
 allocated to the county. The county offices on aging shall solicit
 proposals from existing home delivered nutrition service providers
 and shall fund those proposals which best meet the objectives of
 the program. A resident of the State who is 60 years or older and
 homebound by reason of illness, incapacitating disability or is other-
 wise isolated shall be eligible to participate in the program.

The bill appropriates \$1,000,000.00 from the General Fund to the
 Department of Community Affairs.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Establishes a Meals for Seniors on Weekends and Holidays Pro-
 gram within the Division of Aging in the Department of Community
 Affairs and appropriates \$1,000,000.

S2662 (1987)

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2662

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 9, 1987

The Assembly Appropriations Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 2662 (OCR) with amendments.

This bill, as amended, establishes a Home Delivered Meals Expansion Program in the Division on Aging in the Department of Community Affairs to provide home delivered nutrition services on weekends and holidays. The program is to be administered by the county offices on aging.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is an appropriation of \$1,000,000.00 from the Casino Revenue Fund, of which 95% shall be allocated to the county offices on aging. The counties must match 20% of the State funding in cash or in-kind.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill, as recommended by the Subcommittee on Government Operations, to be identical to Assembly Bill Nos. 3352 and 1719 ACS.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGING
STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 2662

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 27, 1986

The Senate Committee on Aging favorably reports Senate Bill No. 2662.

This bill establishes a Meals for Seniors on Weekends and Holidays Program within the Division on Aging in the Department of Community Affairs. Under this program the county offices on aging will solicit proposals from existing home delivered nutrition service providers and will fund those proposals which best meet the objectives of the program. A resident of the State who is 60 years of age or older and homebound by reason of illness or incapacitating disability or is otherwise isolated will be eligible to participate in the program. Eligible participants will be asked for a confidential donation, but services will not be denied if the person cannot pay.

This bill appropriates \$1,000,000.00 from the General Fund to the Department of Community Affairs. The Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs will allocate moneys appropriated to the program to the county offices on aging according to the formula used under the "Older Americans Act of 1965," Pub. L. 89-73 (42 U. S. C. § 3001 et seq.). Each county will match these funds with contributions in cash or in kind which are equal to 20% of the State funds allocated to the county. Of the money appropriated for this program, not less than 95% will be allocated to the county offices on aging.

SENATE REVENUE, FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2662

with Senate committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 8, 1986

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

As amended, this bill establishes a Meals for Seniors on Weekends and Holidays Program within the Division on Aging in the Department of Community Affairs. Under this program, county offices on aging will solicit proposals from existing providers of home delivered meals and will fund those proposals which best meet the objectives of the program. A resident of the State who is 60 years of age or older and homebound by reason of illness or incapacitating disability, or is otherwise isolated, will be eligible to participate in the program. Eligible participants will be asked for a confidential donation, but services will not be denied if the person cannot pay.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The technical committee amendment clarifies the original intent of the bill, that home delivered meals will be provided for senior citizens who are either homebound or otherwise isolated.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill appropriates \$1,000,000.00, from the General Fund, to the Department of Community Affairs. The Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs will allocate moneys appropriated to the program to county offices on aging according to the formula used in allocating moneys pursuant to the federal "Older Americans Act of 1965," Pub. L. 89-73 (42: U. S. C. § 3001 et seq.). This formula is based on the number of people over age 60 residing in the county, the number of people over age 60 who are living below 125% of the poverty level, the number of people over age 60 who are minority, and the number of people in the county over age 75.

Each county will match these funds with contributions in cash or in kind which are equal to 20% of the State funds allocated to the county. Of the money appropriated for this program, not less than 95% will be allocated to the county offices on aging.

974.961
G61



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

CN-001

Contact: CARL GOLDEN
609-292-8956 OR 292-6000 EXT. 207

TRENTON, N.J. 08625

Release: THUR., JUNE 4, 1987

Governor Thomas H. Kean today signed into law legislation to spend \$1 million from the State's casino revenue fund to expand the "Meals on Wheels" program to include weekends and holidays.

The "Meals on Wheels" program, administered by the State Department of Community Affairs, delivers meals to senior citizens who are homebound because of illness or disability.

The bill S-2662, was sponsored by Senator John Russo, D-Ocean. Identical legislation, A-3352, was approved by the Assembly under the sponsorship of Assemblywoman Dolores Cooper, R-Atlantic, and Assemblyman John Rocco, R-Camden.

"We provided 1.6 million meals to more than 15,000 senior citizens last year under this program," Kean said. "There is no logical or acceptable reason why these individuals in need should forgo this help on weekends and holidays."

The Governor called for the expansion of the program to include weekends and holidays in his 1987 "State of the State" message to the Legislature.

"In a great many instances, the senior citizens helped by the Meals on Wheels program are unable to shop for food, have a limited ability to cook, and cannot call on family members for help," Kean said. "This means that on weekends and holidays, they are left virtually alone and hungry. No government can tolerate or accept such a situation."

-more-

S-2662 Signed
Page 2
June 4, 1987

The Governor pointed out that the State received \$2.2 million in Federal aid for the program last year, with an additional \$122,000 coming from the State. The funds are allocated by the Department of Community Affairs to county offices on aging, allocations ranging from \$30,000 to more than \$200,000, depending on size and population.

#

These are crucial decisions for our seniors, especially our minorities.

from ruining their lives. We can help them to be drug free, to get a diploma, and find a job.

We are also very concerned about younger children. As part of our statewide Child Assault Prevention Program, we have trained nearly 700 people to teach 75,800 children to protect themselves from abuse. Our citizens supported our efforts by contributing more than \$550,000 from their tax refunds last year to fight child abuse.

Fighting child abuse was one of our top priorities in 1986. I am proud to note that we opened the first child abuse diagnostic center at the Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune. And we helped parents have greater peace of mind about the child care centers they use by establishing the first statewide child care referral system. This provides parents with essential information about the child care centers near their homes.

ELDERLY

Children are by no means the only people who are vulnerable. New Jersey's large and growing elderly population also includes many who face a precarious existence.

We want to make their lives less precarious. That is why we have created so many programs expressly for the elderly.

One of the most successful has been our Lifeline program. We have steadily increased this benefit and last year it helped 277,000 seniors pay their utility bills.

Another of our successes has been our Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled. We have been able to expand this program by more than 53 percent since I took office. It is a terrific program that makes sure our elderly can afford the medicines they need.

We know that the needs of our elderly are not static. Last year our Department of Health studied New Jersey's elderly to see what programs were most needed. Based on that research, I recommend the expansion of our home health care program.

Home health care through the Community Care Program for the Elderly and Disabled is one of our most successful programs. Experts estimate that a long-term care program such as this could allow as many as 25 percent of the elderly who now go to nursing homes to remain in their homes. I urge you to pass the Home Health Care Expansion Act, sponsored by Assemblymen Joseph Azzolina and Robert Singer and Senator Peter Garibaldi.

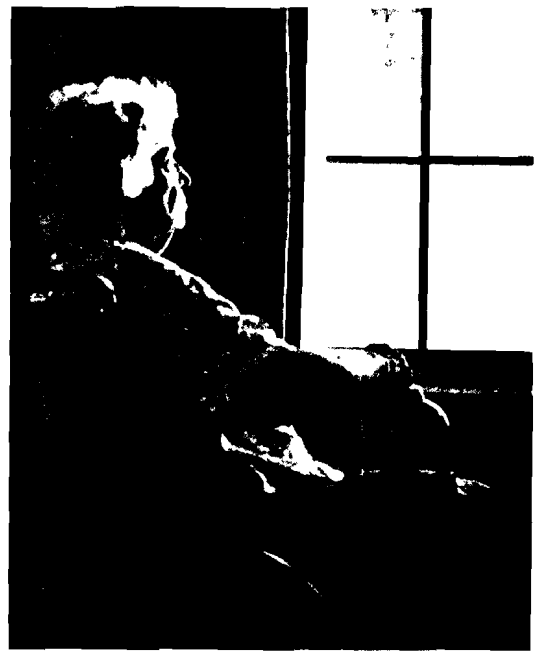
I believe that we should do even more to allow our elderly to stay in their homes. We are already training sons and daughters and neighbors how to care for their loved ones at home. Assemblywoman Marion Crecco has sponsored a bill to give these family members a respite from this demanding task. It is a good bill that deserves your support.



If the elderly must go to a nursing home, it is crucial that they have safe and caring homes to go to, and that their choice is the result of an informed decision.

I am proud to report to you that New Jersey took important steps to add protections last year for our elderly. We created new standards for licensing long-term care facilities. We are producing a Consumer Guide to Nursing Homes and profiles of nursing





homes across the state. And we tightened the rules for nursing homes, giving the state more power to enforce our regulations.

I would like to see us do even more to protect the elderly. Senator Leanna Brown and Assemblymen Robert Singer and John Rooney are sponsoring the Elderly and Disabled Abuse Act that makes the neglect or abuse of an elderly or disabled person a fourth-degree crime. This bill should pass.

Not only must the elderly fight physical ailments, but they must struggle to overcome depression as well. I believe we can adopt a program discovered in Israel to help win this fight.

The Israeli program combines the zest of youth with the wisdom of the elderly to benefit both groups. College students are offered scholarships in exchange for helping the elderly who live in congregate housing. The young learn from the vast storehouse of wisdom the elderly possess, as well as earning money for their tuition. Older people get necessary tasks done for them and can be reinvigorated by the exuberance of youth. I propose that we create a

pilot program in New Jersey to tap these benefits.

We tend to take the holidays and weekends for granted. Christmas, New Year's, Saturday and Sunday—they are a chance to take it easy, sleep in, perhaps putter around the house. But for many of the elderly, holidays mean going hungry.

Meals on Wheels supplies food to our housebound elderly on weekdays, but this program generally does not operate on weekends and holidays. I believe that we must eliminate this trial for our

elderly by expanding Meals on Wheels.

In "Death of a Salesman," Willie Loman's wife Linda yells, "Attention must be paid," and these words do not lose their inherent truth when applied to a slightly different circumstances.

Last year I proposed that we train our medical industry to do a better job of meeting the special needs of our older residents. We will continue our education programs this year to reach our goal of 1,200 doctors and nurses specially trained to serve the elderly.

Our state has such a large elderly population that we must pay special attention to diseases that are unique to them. As Assemblywoman Dolores Cooper constantly reminds us, Alzheimer's disease is one such illness, a tragic one for older New Jerseyans.

We have two diagnostic centers and a pilot day care program to provide day care for Alzheimer's victims. And through a Brookdale Foundation grant, our Departments of Health and Community Affairs have printed a directory for families to discover what resources are available to them to care for their afflicted relatives.



We owe a special debt to another group of New Jerseyans, the more than 800,000 veterans who bravely served our country during times of war. Last May, I opened our state's first veterans' cemetery in Arneytown. Eventually the cemetery will stretch for 184 acres and accommodate all New Jersey veterans who want a final resting place within our borders.

POOR AND THE SICK

Like the elderly, the homeless have unique needs. Too often we see television portrayals of the homeless as the stumbling drunk down on his luck or the crazy woman babbling on the street corner.

The image is deceiving. The homeless today are often families who have faced a personal disaster, a job loss, a serious illness or legal problems that have drained so much from their monthly incomes that there is no money left to pay the rent.

Let me give you an example. Susan is in her mid-20's and has three children. I know of her problems because she called my office looking for help.

Last August, Susan was faced with the same choice many of our poorer families face. Money was tight and she had to choose between paying the rent and feeding and clothing her children. She chose the children.

But her landlord chose the rent, and kicked her out when she could not pay.

Susan stayed with friends. She stayed in a church. She stayed in a shelter. Eventually good will ran out and she was out on the street with three children. After struggling, Susan made the phone call she did not want to make. She called the Division of Youth and Family Services and asked them to place her children in foster homes.

Robert Frost once wrote that "Home is where they have to take you in," but for people like Susan, there too often is no home.

We must do better to make sure there are places to go. We are making a greater effort to ensure that there is affordable housing for the long-term, and we must do better at providing emergency housing to fill in the gaps.



For instance, there are buildings that non-profit and private groups use for shelters—that often are forced to close because they do not comply with our fire and occupancy codes. I propose that we add money to our Housing Demonstration Fund to help these groups comply with the codes. I believe this will create additional beds for our neediest citizens.

Do you know that last year a number of families—families like Susan's—were broken up simply because they could not find a place to live? The state had to take 900 children because their mothers and fathers could not put a roof over their heads.

I do not want to see this continue. In addition to DCA's homeless prevention program, I am asking Human Services Commissioner Drew Altman to develop a program that will aid homeless families before they become so desperate. I believe this can be done with a minimum of new state funding by shifting money used to care for displaced children and by seeking regulatory changes to attract federal matching funds.

The homeless are the most noticeable of our poor, but they are not the only poor who need our special attention. A disproportionate number of our poor are black New Jerseyans. One in four black families lives below the poverty line. One in three black children is living in poverty. Six in ten black children live with one parent compared to just 16 percent of white children. Six out of ten black babies are born out of wedlock. Sixty percent of urban black teenagers cannot find a job.

New Jersey must take a fresh look at the problems our urban black families face. To do this, Community Affairs Commissioner Leonard Coleman has formed a commission to study the plight of black families in New Jersey. He has my full support. Unless we act now, the next generation of black New Jerseyans will pay a steep price.

