

26:2H-18c

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA: 26:2H-18c

"Southern New Jersey Children's Hospital Act"

LAWS OF: 1987

CHAPTER: 299

Bill No: A4073

Sponsor(s): Bryant and Colburn

Date Introduced: May 21, 1987

Committee: Assembly: Health and Human Resources

Senate: -----

Amended during passage: No

Date of Passage: Assembly: August 3, 1987

Senate: September 14, 1987

Date of Approval: November 4, 1987

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement: Yes

Committee statement: Assembly Yes

Senate No

Fiscal Note: No

Veto Message: No

Message on Signing: Yes

Following were printed:

Reports: No

Hearings: No

26:2H-18c  
CHAPTER 299  
ASSEMBLY  
SEP 14 1987  
SENATE

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4073**  
**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

INTRODUCED MAY 21, 1987

By Assemblymen BRYANT and COLBURN

**AN Act providing for the designation of a children's hospital for southern New Jersey and supplementing P. L. 1971, c. 136 (C. 26:2H-1 et seq.).**

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

**1 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Southern**  
**2 New Jersey Children's Hospital Act."**

**1 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:**

**2 a. Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center in the City of**  
**3 Camden is a major pediatric training facility for medical students**  
**4 from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and a**  
**5 nationally known acute care hospital which provides unique**  
**6 diagnostic and specialty treatment services for children throughout**  
**7 New Jersey and particularly for those living in the 10 southern-**  
**8 most counties of this State;**

**9 b. A significant number of the children treated at this facility**  
**10 require a level of specialized treatment and care that is not avail-**  
**11 able at other hospitals in southern New Jersey;**

**12 c. Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center offers a unique**  
**13 combination of an exceptionally skilled medical and nursing staff**  
**14 that is dedicated to excellence in the treatment and care of critically**  
**15 ill children and a comprehensive array of the most modern medical**  
**16 equipment, sophisticated medical technology and diverse specialized**  
**17 health care services;**

**18 d. Children's Hospital of New Jersey, a unit of United Hospitals**  
**19 Medical Center in the City of Newark, was designated by the Com-**

20 Commissioner of Health as the State's specialty acute care children's  
21 hospital pursuant to P. L. 1985, c. 306 (C. 26:211-18a et al.); how-  
22 ever, this facility does not adequately meet the needs of critically  
23 ill children who are residents of southern New Jersey because of  
24 the great distance between Newark and most of the southern region  
25 of this State;

26 e. Although the overwhelming majority of critically ill children  
27 living in southern New Jersey who are covered by the Medicaid  
28 program established pursuant to P. L. 1968, c. 413 (C. 30:4D-1  
29 et seq.) receive their inpatient treatment at Cooper Hospital/  
30 University Medical Center, about 5,000 children from this region  
31 are treated in an acute care hospital outside of New Jersey each  
32 year, the majority in Philadelphia where the cost of inpatient  
33 pediatric care is substantially greater than in New Jersey hospitals,  
34 which cost must be borne by the residents of this State in the form  
35 of higher health insurance premiums and taxes;

36 f. Medical knowledge indicates that the health care needs of  
37 seriously ill children are best met in a full-fledged specialty  
38 children's acute care hospital, and over 125 such facilities have been  
39 established throughout the United States; however, southern New  
40 Jersey is the largest region on the east coast which does not have  
41 a designated facility of this kind; and

42 g. It is in the public interest generally, and in the interest of the  
43 children of southern New Jersey specifically, for this State to  
44 designate an acute care specialty hospital to provide specialized  
45 treatment and care to critically ill children living in the 10 southern-  
46 most counties of New Jersey.

1 3. a. The Commissioner of Health, subject to the provisions of  
2 subsection b. of this section, shall designate Cooper Hospital/  
3 University Medical Center in the City of Camden as the State's  
4 specialty acute care children's hospital for the counties of Atlantic,  
5 Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer,  
6 Monmouth, Ocean and Salem.

7 b. The designation by the Commissioner of Health pursuant to  
8 subsection a. of this section shall be made subsequent to, and shall  
9 be contingent upon, the execution of a written agreement between  
10 Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center and a majority of the  
11 acute care hospitals providing inpatient pediatric services which  
12 are located in the counties listed in subsection a. of this section.

13 The written agreement shall state that the other facility  
14 recognizes Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center as the

15 State's specialty acute care children's hospital for the counties  
16 listed in subsection a. of this section and shall set forth the basis on  
17 which the other facility shall make referrals to Cooper Hospital/  
18 University Medical Center.

1 4. The Commissioner of Health, pursuant to the "Administra-  
2 tive Procedure Act," P. L. 1968, c. 410 (C. 52:14B-1 et seq.), shall  
3 adopt rules and regulations necessary to effectuate the purposes of  
4 this act.

1 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

This bill directs the Commissioner of Health to designate Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center in Camden as the State's specialty acute care children's hospital for the 10 southernmost counties of New Jersey, subject to written agreements between that facility and a majority of the acute care hospitals which provide inpatient pediatric services in those counties.

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#### HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND PROVIDERS

Designated the "Southern New Jersey Children's Hospital Act."

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*Spencer* STATEMENT

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HEALTH CARE FACILITIES AND PROVIDERS

Designated the "Southern New Jersey Children's Hospital Act."

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ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 4073**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 8, 1987

The Assembly Health and Human Resources Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 4073.

This bill directs the Commissioner of Health to designate Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center in Camden as the State's specialty acute care children's hospital for the 10 southernmost counties of New Jersey, including Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem counties, subject to written agreements between Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center and a majority of the acute care hospitals which provide inpatient pediatric services in those counties.

These written agreements shall state that the other facilities recognize Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center as the State's specialty acute care children's hospital for the 10 designated counties and shall set forth the basis on which the other facilities shall make referrals to Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center.

This bill is intended to meet the needs of critically ill children living in the southern portion of the State, whose needs are not adequately met by Children's Hospital of New Jersey, a unit of United Hospitals Medical Center in Newark. Although that facility was designated by the Commissioner of Health as the State's specialty acute care children's hospital pursuant to P. L. 1985, c. 306 (C. 26:2H-18a et al.), it is relatively inaccessible to critically ill children who are southern New Jersey residents because of the great distance between Newark and most of southern New Jersey.

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661.



# OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

**CN-001**

**Contact:** JOHN SAMERJAN  
609-292-8956 OR 292-6000 EXT. 207

**TRENTON, N.J. 08625**

**Release: WED., NOV. 4, 1987**

Governor Thomas H. Kean today signed the following legislation:

A-2303, sponsored by Assemblywoman Joann Smith, R-Monmouth and Senator Richard Van Wagner, D-Monmouth, establishes the Hearing Aid Assistance for the Aged and Disabled program.

The \$540,000 appropriation will allow for grants of up to \$100 per year to eligible recipients for the purchase, repair, or replacement of hearing aids.

To be eligible, a person must be disabled pursuant to the federal Social Security Act, or be over 65 years of age. The person's annual income must be less than \$13,250 if single or \$16,250 if married.

The legislation is effective in ninety days.

A-4073, sponsored by Assemblyman Wayne Bryant, D-Camden, Assemblyman Harold Colburn, R-Burlington and Senator Walter Rand, D-Camden, designates Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center in Camden as the State's specialty acute care children's hospital for the ten southern counties in New Jersey.

The designation of Cooper Hospital as the specialty acute care children's hospital for Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Monmouth, Ocean and Salem counties follows the designation of Children's Hospital of New Jersey, a unit of United Hospitals Medical Center in Newark, as a similar facility.

The legislation is effective immediately.

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