

26:2-117

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

(Cystic fibrosis--establish treatment for adult victims of disease)

NJSA 26:2-117

LAWS 1981

CHAPTER 289

Bill No. S1358

Sponsor(s) Scardino and Feldman

Date Introduced June 23, 1980

Committee: Assembly Institutions, Health and Welfare

Senate Institutions, Health and Welfare

Amended during passage xxx No

Date of Passage: Assembly June 29, 1981

Senate Oct, 9, 1980

Date of approval Sept. 23, 1981

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes xxx No xxx

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes xxx No xxx

Senate Yes xxx No xxx

Fiscal Note xxx No

Veto Message xxx No

Message on signing Yes xxx No xxx

Following were printed:

Reports xxx No

Hearings xxx No

6/22/81

SENATE, No. 1358

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 23, 1980

By Senators SCARDINO and FELDMAN

Referred to Committee on Institutions, Health and Welfare

AN Act authorizing the Department of Health to establish a program of medical treatment for persons 21 years of age or older who have cystic fibrosis and making an appropriation.

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

1 1. The Department of Health shall establish a program of medi-
2 cal care and treatment for persons suffering from cystic fibrosis
3 who are 21 or more years of age.

4 The program shall include those services which are available to
5 children with cystic fibrosis through the State Crippled Children's
6 Commission established pursuant to R. S. 9:13-1 et seq. and shall
7 be extended under the same conditions, requirements, and criteria.

1 2. There is appropriated to the Department of Health \$50,000.00
2 to effectuate the purposes of this act.

1 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day following
2 enactment.

STATEMENT

This bill establishes a program within the Department of Health to provide medical care and treatment to victims of cystic fibrosis who are 21 years of age or older and who meet eligibility requirements.

Children with cystic fibrosis are able to obtain services through the Crippled Children's Services Program located within the department. However, adults with cystic fibrosis do not qualify for any type of assistance although they continue to be faced with long-term, expensive treatments which place undue financial burdens on themselves and their families. Both medical and financial support are necessary to allow them to lead useful and productive lives.

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ASSEMBLY INSTITUTIONS, HEALTH AND WELFARE
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 1358

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 22, 1981

This bill establishes a program in the Department of Health to provide medical care and treatment to persons having cystic fibrosis who are 21 years of age or older and who meet certain eligibility requirements. The bill appropriates \$50,000.00.

Children afflicted with cystic fibrosis are presently able, through the Crippled Children's Services Program, to obtain both financial support and medical care. This legislation extends these services to adults who face long-term and expensive treatment for this disease.

Cystic fibrosis is an uncommon hereditary defect of numerous glands, including the mucous glands of the bronchi, the sweat glands and the digestive glands. The symptoms include severe digestive disorders, difficulty with breathing, lung infections and heat stroke.

The committee agreed with the purpose of this legislation and released the bill without amendment.

SENATE INSTITUTIONS, HEALTH AND WELFARE
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1358

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 6, 1980

This bill establishes a program within the Department of Health to provide medical care and treatment to victims of cystic fibrosis who are 21 years of age or older and who meet eligibility requirements.

Children with cystic fibrosis are able to obtain services through the Crippled Children's Services Program located within the department. However, adults with cystic fibrosis do not qualify for any type of assistance although they continue to be faced with long-term, expensive treatments which place undue financial burdens on themselves and their families. The committee requested the Department of Health furnish to them information about how services are currently provided to those children with cystic fibrosis who are in the Crippled Children's Services Program.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

SEPTEMBER 23, 1981

DAVID DE MAIO

Acting Governor Joseph P. Merlino today signed into law legislation establishing a medical treatment program for adult victims of cystic fibrosis, a crippling and usually fatal children's disease characterized by pancreatic malfunctions and frequent respiratory infections.

The bill, S-1358, sponsored by former Senator Anthony Scardino Jr. (D-Bergen), appropriates \$50,000 this fiscal year for the treatment of cystic fibrosis victims over 21 years of age. The services under the new adult program will be similar to those available for cystic fibrosis victims under the Crippled Children's Services Program, including financial aid for prescription drugs, doctor visits and physical therapy.

State aid under the Crippled Children's program is automatically ended when an individual reaches 21 years of age — the average life expectancy of a child afflicted with cystic fibrosis. The new program would enable eligible recipients to continue receiving assistance for life-sustaining medical treatments.

There are approximately fifty cystic fibrosis adults living in New Jersey, most of whom receive benefits under social security disability programs and third party payors such as Blue Cross. The new program is directed at the minority of cystic fibrosis adults who receive less than adequate assistance for medical treatments which cost an estimated \$2,500 per year; the majority of those costs resulting from the 35 to 50 pills each individual must take daily.

Senator Matthew Feldman (D-Bergen) co-sponsored the legislation.

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