

30:4D-21

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 30:4D-21

Laws of 1975 Chapter 312

Bill No. S3411

Sponsor(s) Merlino & Bateman

Date Introduced Nov. 17, 1975

Committee: Assembly -

Senate -

Amended during passage Yes No

Date of passage: Assembly January 5, 1976

Senate November 24, 1975

Date of approval February 19, 1976

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement Yes No

Committee Statement: Assembly Yes No

Senate Yes No

Fiscal Note Yes No

Veto message Yes No

Message on signing Yes No

Following were printed:

Reports Yes No

Hearings Yes No

DEPOSITORY COPY  
Do Not Remove From Library

KB 2/77

10/4/76

SENATE, No. 3411

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 17, 1975

By Senators MERLINO and BATEMAN

(Without Reference)

AN ACT to amend "An act to supplement the 'New Jersey Medical Assistance and Health Services Act,' (P. L. 1968, c. 413) and making an appropriation therefor," approved August 21, 1975 (P. L. 1975, c. 194).

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

1 1. Section 2 of P. L. 1975, c. 194 (C. 30:4D-21) is amended to  
2 read as follows:

3 2. Any *single* resident of this State 65 years of age and over  
4 whose annual income is less than \$9,000.00, or any married resident  
5 whose annual income combined with that of his spouse is less than  
6 \$12,000.00, shall be eligible for "Pharmaceutical Assistance to the  
7 Aged" if he is not otherwise qualified for assistance under the act  
8 to which this act is a supplement.

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

On August 21, 1975, the Governor signed into law a bill creating a program of "Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged." By January, 1976 the Division of Medicaid intends to begin paying claims under the bill.

However, a problem has arisen in preparing regulations for the implementation of the law, a problem that concerns the bill's standard of eligibility. Read literally, the criteria for eligibility would permit an individual with less than \$9,000.00 in income per year to qualify, regardless of the income of his or her spouse. One marriage partner could have an unlimited income, yet the other would still be eligible for the program. Although the law's present language is unlikely to cause a significant practical problem, symbolic harm to the program could be done by even a few attempts to take advantage of the law. Passage of this bill would forestall all such attempts to take advantage of the clear intent of the law as presently written.