

***LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST***

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**LAWS OF:** 1998

**CHAPTER:** 19

**NJSA:** 9:6-8.99 to 9:6-8.106  
"Child abuse treatment centers"

**BILL NO:**A1301 (Substituted for S857)

**SPONSOR(S):** Heck and Stuhltrager

**DATE INTRODUCED:** Pre-filed

**COMMITTEE:**

***ASSEMBLY:*** Appropriations

***SENATE:*** Senior Citizens; Budget

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** Yes

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**

***ASSEMBLY:*** February 19, 1998

***SENATE:*** March 30, 1998

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** May 8, 1998

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**THE FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL:** 2<sup>nd</sup> reprint  
(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

**A1301**

**SPONSORS STATEMENT:** *Yes* (Begins on page 4 of original bill)

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**

***ASSEMBLY:*** *Yes*

**SENATE:** *Yes*  
3-23-98 (*Senior Citizens*)  
3-26-98 (*Budget*)

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS:** *No*

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** *Yes*

**S857**

**SPONSORS STATEMENT:** *Yes* (Begins on page 4 of original bill)

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**

**ASSEMBLY:** *No*  
**SENATE:** *Yes*  
3-23-98 (*Senior Citizens*)  
3-26-98 (*Budget*)  
(Identical to Senate Statements for A1301)

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS:** *No*

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** *Yes*

**VETO MESSAGE:** *No*

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** *Yes*

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**THE FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** *No*

**HEARINGS:** *No*

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** *No*

[Second Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1301**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**208th LEGISLATURE**

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1998 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ROSE MARIE HECK**

**District 38 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman GARY W. STUHLTRAGER**

**District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Blee, Gregg, Malone, Assemblywoman Pou, Assemblymen Payne, Romano, Assemblywoman Watson Coleman, Senators Lipman, Bassano, Rice, Sacco and Baer**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes four regional diagnostic and treatment centers for child abuse; appropriates \$1.5 million.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee on March 26, 1998, with amendments.

**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/31/1998)**

1 AN ACT establishing regional diagnostic and treatment centers for  
2 child abuse and neglect and making an appropriation.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish four  
8 regional diagnostic and treatment centers for child abuse and neglect  
9 affiliated with medical teaching institutions in the State that meet the  
10 standards adopted by the commissioner, in consultation with the New  
11 Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. The regional centers  
12 shall be located in the northern, north central, south central and  
13 southern regions of the State. Each center shall have experience in  
14 addressing the medical and mental health diagnostic and treatment  
15 needs of abused and neglected children in the region in which it is  
16 located.

17

18 2. Each center shall demonstrate a multidisciplinary approach to  
19 identifying and responding to child abuse and neglect. The center staff  
20 shall include, at a minimum, a pediatrician, a consulting psychiatrist,  
21 a psychologist and a social worker who are trained to evaluate and  
22 treat children who have been abused or neglected and their families.  
23 Each center shall establish a liaison with the district office of the  
24 Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human  
25 Services and the prosecutor's office from the county in which the child  
26 who is undergoing evaluation and treatment resides. At least one  
27 member of the staff shall also have an appropriate professional  
28 credential or significant training and experience in the identification  
29 and treatment of substance abuse.

30 Each center shall develop an intake, referral and case tracking  
31 process which assists the division and prosecutor's office in assuring  
32 that child victims receive appropriate and timely diagnostic and  
33 treatment services.

34

35 3. The regional centers shall: evaluate and treat child abuse and  
36 neglect; be resources for the region and develop additional resources  
37 within the region; provide training and consultative services; and be  
38 available for emergency phone consultation 24 hours a day. The  
39 centers shall also be a source for research and training for additional  
40 medical and mental health personnel dedicated to the identification and  
41 treatment of child abuse and neglect.

**EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

<sup>1</sup> Senate SSV committee amendments adopted March 23, 1998.

<sup>2</sup> Senate SBA committee amendments adopted March 26, 1998.

1 The regional center may charge a sliding scale fee for services  
2 provided under this act.

3

4 4. Services provided by the center's staff shall include, but not be  
5 limited to:

6 a. Providing psychological and medical evaluation and treatment  
7 of the child, counseling for family members and substance abuse  
8 assessment and mental health and substance abuse counseling for the  
9 parents or guardians of the child;

10 b. Providing referral for appropriate social services and medical  
11 care;

12 c. Providing testimony regarding alleged child abuse or neglect at  
13 judicial proceedings;

14 d. Providing treatment recommendations for the child and mental  
15 health and substance abuse treatment recommendations for his family,  
16 and providing mental health and substance abuse treatment  
17 recommendations for persons convicted of child abuse or neglect;

18 e. Receiving referrals from the Division of Youth and Family  
19 Services and the county prosecutor's office and assisting them in any  
20 investigation of child abuse or neglect;

21 f. Providing educational material and seminars on child abuse and  
22 neglect and the services the center provides to children, parents,  
23 teachers, law enforcement officials, the judiciary, attorneys and other  
24 citizens.

25

26 5. The regional center shall ensure the safety of a child undergoing  
27 treatment while the child is at the regional center to the extent  
28 permitted by law. The appropriate law enforcement officials and  
29 protective services providers shall continue to ensure the safety of the  
30 child to the extent permitted by law.

31

32 6. Regional centers shall act as a resource in the establishment and  
33 maintenance of county-based multidisciplinary teams which work in  
34 conjunction with the county prosecutor and the Division of Youth and  
35 Family Services in the investigation of child abuse and neglect in the  
36 county in which the child who is undergoing evaluation and treatment  
37 resides. The Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with  
38 the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, shall establish  
39 standards for a county team. The county team shall consist of  
40 representatives of the following disciplines: law enforcement; child  
41 protective services; mental health; substance abuse identification and  
42 treatment; and medicine, all of whom have been trained to recognize  
43 child abuse and neglect. The county team shall provide: facilitation of  
44 the investigation, management and disposition of cases of criminal  
45 child abuse and neglect; referral services to the regional diagnostic  
46 center; appropriate referrals to medical and social service agencies;  
47 information regarding the identification and treatment of child abuse

1 and neglect; and appropriate follow-up care for abused children and  
2 their families.

3  
4 7. There is established a <sup>1</sup>[15] <sup>2</sup>[19<sup>1</sup>] 15<sup>2</sup> member Diagnostic and  
5 Treatment Advisory Council to oversee the programs of the regional  
6 centers, help facilitate communications among the centers, county  
7 teams, law enforcement officials and the Division of Youth and Family  
8 Services, develop standards of care for the treatment of child abuse,  
9 and help coordinate any research it deems appropriate. The council  
10 shall consist of: the Commissioners of the Departments of Human  
11 Services, Health and Senior Services and Education, and the Attorney  
12 General, or their designees; the Director of the Division of Youth and  
13 Family Services; <sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>two members of the General Assembly, no more  
14 than one of whom shall be of the same political party, to be appointed  
15 by the Speaker of the General Assembly; two members of the Senate,  
16 no more than one of whom shall be of the same political party, to be  
17 appointed by the President of the Senate;<sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup> the directors of the four  
18 regional centers; a physician; a social worker; a psychologist; a  
19 certified alcohol and drug abuse counselor or other professional  
20 appropriately credentialed to identify and treat substance abuse; an  
21 advocate for abused and neglected children; and a person who has  
22 utilized the services of a center. The Governor shall appoint the six  
23 public members of the council, who shall serve as members for three  
24 years.

25 The advisory council shall report annually to the Governor and the  
26 Legislature regarding the effectiveness of the regional centers and shall  
27 make recommendations for improvements or changes.

28  
29 8. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and  
30 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act" P.L.1968,  
31 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) necessary to effectuate the provisions of  
32 this act.

33  
34 9. There is appropriated \$1.5 million from the General Fund to the  
35 Department of Human Services to carry out the purposes of this act.

36  
37 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1301

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1998 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ROSE MARIE HECK**

**District 38 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman GARY W. STUHLTRAGER**

**District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Blee, Gregg and Malone**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes four regional diagnostic and treatment centers for child abuse; appropriates \$1.5 million.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/30/1998)

1 AN ACT establishing regional diagnostic and treatment centers for  
2 child abuse and neglect and making an appropriation.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish four  
8 regional diagnostic and treatment centers for child abuse and neglect  
9 affiliated with medical teaching institutions in the State that meet the  
10 standards adopted by the commissioner, in consultation with the  
11 Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. The regional  
12 centers shall be located in the northern, north central, south central  
13 and southern regions of the State. Each center shall have experience  
14 in addressing the medical and mental health diagnostic and treatment  
15 needs of abused and neglected children in the region in which it is  
16 located.

17

18 2. Each center shall demonstrate a multidisciplinary approach to  
19 identifying and responding to child abuse and neglect. The center staff  
20 shall include, at a minimum, a pediatrician, a consulting psychiatrist,  
21 a psychologist and a social worker who are trained to evaluate and  
22 treat children who have been abused or neglected and their families.  
23 Each center shall establish a liaison with the district office of the  
24 Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human  
25 Services and the prosecutor's office from the county in which the child  
26 who is undergoing evaluation and treatment resides. At least one  
27 member of the staff shall also have an appropriate professional  
28 credential or significant training and experience in the identification  
29 and treatment of substance abuse.

30 Each center shall develop an intake, referral and case tracking  
31 process which assists the division and prosecutor's office in assuring  
32 that child victims receive appropriate and timely diagnostic and  
33 treatment services.

34

35 3. The regional centers shall: evaluate and treat child abuse and  
36 neglect; be resources for the region and develop additional resources  
37 within the region; provide training and consultative services; and be  
38 available for emergency phone consultation 24 hours a day. The  
39 centers shall also be a source for research and training for additional  
40 medical and mental health personnel dedicated to the identification and  
41 treatment of child abuse and neglect.

42 The regional center may charge a sliding scale fee for services  
43 provided under this act.

44

45 4. Services provided by the center's staff shall include, but not be  
46 limited to:

47 a. Providing psychological and medical evaluation and treatment



- 1 of the child, counseling for family members and substance abuse  
2 assessment and mental health and substance abuse counseling for the  
3 parents or guardians of the child;
- 4 b. Providing referral for appropriate social services and medical  
5 care;
- 6 c. Providing testimony regarding alleged child abuse or neglect at  
7 judicial proceedings;
- 8 d. Providing treatment recommendations for the child and mental  
9 health and substance abuse treatment recommendations for his family,  
10 and providing mental health and substance abuse treatment  
11 recommendations for persons convicted of child abuse or neglect;
- 12 e. Receiving referrals from the Division of Youth and Family  
13 Services and the county prosecutor's office and assisting them in any  
14 investigation of child abuse or neglect;
- 15 f. Providing educational material and seminars on child abuse and  
16 neglect and the services the center provides to children, parents,  
17 teachers, law enforcement officials, the judiciary, attorneys and other  
18 citizens.
- 19
- 20 5. The regional center shall ensure the safety of a child undergoing  
21 treatment while the child is at the regional center to the extent  
22 permitted by law. The appropriate law enforcement officials and  
23 protective services providers shall continue to ensure the safety of the  
24 child to the extent permitted by law.
- 25
- 26 6. Regional centers shall act as a resource in the establishment and  
27 maintenance of county-based multidisciplinary teams which work in  
28 conjunction with the county prosecutor and the Division of Youth and  
29 Family Services in the investigation of child abuse and neglect in the  
30 county in which the child who is undergoing evaluation and treatment  
31 resides. The Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with  
32 the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, shall establish  
33 standards for a county team. The county team shall consist of  
34 representatives of the following disciplines: law enforcement; child  
35 protective services; mental health; substance abuse identification and  
36 treatment; and medicine, all of whom have been trained to recognize  
37 child abuse and neglect. The county team shall provide: facilitation of  
38 the investigation, management and disposition of cases of criminal  
39 child abuse and neglect; referral services to the regional diagnostic  
40 center; appropriate referrals to medical and social service agencies;  
41 information regarding the identification and treatment of child abuse  
42 and neglect; and appropriate follow-up care for abused children and  
43 their families.
- 44
- 45 7. There is established a 15 member Diagnostic and Treatment  
46 Advisory Council to oversee the programs of the regional centers, help  
47 facilitate communications among the centers, county teams, law

1 enforcement officials and the Division of Youth and Family Services,  
2 develop standards of care for the treatment of child abuse, and help  
3 coordinate any research it deems appropriate. The council shall  
4 consist of: the Commissioners of the Departments of Human Services,  
5 Health and Senior Services and Education, and the Attorney General,  
6 or their designees; the Director of the Division of Youth and Family  
7 Services; the directors of the four regional centers; a physician; a  
8 social worker; a psychologist; a certified alcohol and drug abuse  
9 counselor or other professional appropriately credentialed to identify  
10 and treat substance abuse; an advocate for abused and neglected  
11 children; and a person who has utilized the services of a center. The  
12 Governor shall appoint the six public members of the council, who  
13 shall serve as members for three years.

14 The advisory council shall report annually to the Governor and the  
15 Legislature regarding the effectiveness of the regional centers and shall  
16 make recommendations for improvements or changes.

17

18 8. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and  
19 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act" P.L.1968,  
20 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) necessary to effectuate the provisions of  
21 this act.

22

23 9. There is appropriated \$1.5 million from the General Fund to the  
24 Department of Human Services to carry out the purposes of this act.

25

26 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

27

28

29

#### STATEMENT

30

31 This bill establishes four regional diagnostic and treatment centers  
32 for child abuse and neglect affiliated with medical centers in the State  
33 that meet standards adopted by the Commissioner of Human Services,  
34 in consultation with the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and  
35 Neglect. Each center shall demonstrate a multidisciplinary approach  
36 to identifying and responding to child abuse and neglect. The center's  
37 staff shall include, at a minimum, a pediatrician, a consulting  
38 psychiatrist, a psychologist and a social worker who are trained to  
39 evaluate and treat children who have been abused and neglected and  
40 their families. At least one member of the staff shall also have an  
41 appropriate professional credential or significant training and  
42 experience in the identification and treatment of substance abuse.

43

44 Each center shall establish a liaison with the district office of the  
45 Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human  
46 Services and with the county prosecutor's office from the county in  
47 which the child who is undergoing evaluation and treatment resides.

47 The regional centers shall: evaluate and treat child abuse and

1 neglect; be resources for the region and develop additional resources  
2 within a region; provide training and consultative services; and be  
3 available for emergency phone consultation 24-hours a day. The  
4 centers shall also be a source for research and training for additional  
5 medical and mental health personnel dedicated to the identification and  
6 treatment of child abuse and neglect.

7 Services provided by the center's staff shall include, but not be  
8 limited to:

9 1. Psychological and medical evaluation and treatment of the child,  
10 counseling for family members and substance abuse assessment and  
11 mental health and substance abuse counseling for the parents or  
12 guardians of the child;

13 2. Referral for appropriate social services and medical care;

14 3. Providing testimony regarding alleged child abuse or neglect at  
15 judicial proceedings;

16 4. Treatment recommendations for the child and mental health and  
17 substance abuse treatment recommendations for his family, and mental  
18 health and substance abuse treatment recommendations for persons  
19 convicted of child abuse or neglect;

20 5. Receiving referrals from the Division of Youth and Family  
21 Services and the county prosecutor's office and assisting them in any  
22 investigation of child abuse or neglect; and

23 6. Providing educational material and seminars on child abuse and  
24 neglect and the services the center provides to children, parents,  
25 teachers, law enforcement, the judiciary, attorneys and other citizens.

26 The regional center may charge a sliding scale fee for services  
27 provided under this bill.

28 Regional centers shall act as a resource in the establishment and  
29 maintenance of county based multidisciplinary teams which work in  
30 conjunction with the county prosecutor and the Division of Youth and  
31 Family Services in the investigation of child abuse and neglect in the  
32 county in which the child who is undergoing evaluation and treatment  
33 resides. The Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with  
34 the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, shall establish  
35 standards for the county teams.

36 The bill also establishes an 15-member Diagnostic and Treatment  
37 Advisory Council to oversee the programs of the regional centers, help  
38 facilitate communications among the centers, county teams, law  
39 enforcement officials and the Division of Youth and Family Services,  
40 develop standards of care for the treatment of child abuse, and help  
41 coordinate any research it deems appropriate.

42 Finally, the bill appropriates \$1.5 million from the General Fund to  
43 the Department of Human Services to carry out the provisions of the  
44 bill.

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY, No. 1301

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 29, 1998

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1301.

Assembly Bill No. 1301, establishes four regional diagnostic and treatment centers for child abuse and neglect affiliated with medical centers in the State that meet standards adopted by the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. Each center's staff shall include, at a minimum, a pediatrician, a consulting psychiatrist, a psychologist and a social worker who are trained to evaluate and treat children who have been abused and neglected and their families. The regional centers would:

- Evaluate and treat child abuse and neglect,
- Be a resource for the region and develop additional resources within a region,
- Provide training and consultative services,
- Provide 24-hour daily emergency phone consultation,
- Be a source for research and training for additional medical and mental health personnel dedicated to the identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect, and
- Provide liaison with the appropriate Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) district office and county prosecutor's office.

The bill appropriates \$1.5 million from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services to implement the program.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 1998-1999 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill makes a General Fund appropriation of \$1.5 million to the Department of Human Services (DHS). To implement the legislation, DHS would issue a Request for Proposal to solicit bids from qualified providers that wish to establish a regional diagnostic and treatment center in four regions of the State. Once proposals are received and reviewed, the adequacy of the \$1.5 million General Fund appropriation can be better determined.

SENATE SENIOR CITIZENS, VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1301**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 23, 1998

The Senate Senior Citizens, Veterans' Affairs and Human Services Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 1301.

This bill establishes four regional diagnostic and treatment centers for child abuse and neglect affiliated with medical centers in the State that meet standards adopted by the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. Each center's staff shall include, at a minimum, a pediatrician, a consulting psychiatrist, a psychologist and a social worker who are trained to evaluate and treat children who have been abused and neglected and their families. The regional centers would:

- Evaluate and treat child abuse and neglect,
- Be a resource for the region and develop additional resources within a region,
- Provide training and consultative services,
- Provide 24-hour daily emergency phone consultation,
- Be a source for research and training for additional medical and mental health personnel dedicated to the identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect, and
- Provide liaison with the appropriate Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) district office and county prosecutor's office.

The bill establishes a 19-member Diagnostic and Treatment Advisory Council to oversee the programs of the regional centers.

Also, the bill appropriates \$1.5 million from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services to implement the program.

The committee adopted an amendment to add two members of the Assembly and two members of the Senate to the Diagnostic and Treatment Advisory Council.

This bill is identical to S857 Sca (Lipman/Bassano) which the committee also reported favorably on this date.

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

## **ASSEMBLY, No. 1301**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 26, 1998

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 1301 (1R).

Assembly Bill No. 1301 (1R) establishes four regional diagnostic and treatment centers for child abuse and neglect affiliated with medical centers in the State that meet standards adopted by the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. Each center's staff shall include, at a minimum, a pediatrician, a consulting psychiatrist, a psychologist and a social worker who are trained to evaluate and treat children who have been abused and neglected and their families. The regional centers would:

- Evaluate and treat child abuse and neglect,
- Be a resource for the region and develop additional resources within a region,
- Provide training and consultative services,
- Provide 24-hour daily emergency phone consultation,
- Be a source for research and training for additional medical and mental health personnel dedicated to the identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect, and
- Provide liaison with the appropriate Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) district office and county prosecutor's office.

The bill establishes a Diagnostic and Treatment Advisory Council to oversee the programs of the regional center.

The bill appropriates \$1.5 million from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services to implement the program.

As amended by the committee, the form of the bill is identical to the form in which it was passed by the General Assembly.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The adopted amendments to the bill to remove a provision for the inclusion of four legislative members on the Diagnostic and Treatment Advisory Council.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill makes a General Fund appropriation of \$1.5 million to the Department of Human Services (DHS). To implement the legislation, DHS would issue a Request for Proposal to solicit bids from qualified providers that wish to establish a regional diagnostic and treatment center in four regions of the State. Once proposals are received and reviewed, the adequacy of the \$1.5 million General Fund appropriation can be better determined.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

## ASSEMBLY, No. 1301

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 208th LEGISLATURE

DATED: MARCH 3, 1998

### **Bill Summary:**

Assembly Bill No. 1301 of 1998 establishes four regional diagnostic and treatment centers for child abuse and neglect affiliated with medical centers in the State that meet standards adopted by the Commissioner of Human Services in consultation with the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. Each center's staff shall include, at a minimum, a pediatrician, a consulting psychiatrist, a psychologist and a social worker who are trained to evaluate and treat children who have been abused and neglected and their families. The regional centers would:

- Evaluate and treat child abuse and neglect,
- Be a resource for the region and develop additional resources within a region,
- Provide training and consultative services,
- Provide 24-hour daily emergency phone consultation,
- Be a source for research and training for additional medical and mental health personnel dedicated to the identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect, and
- Provide liaison with the appropriate Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) district office and county prosecutor's office.

The bill appropriates \$1.5 million from the General Fund to implement the program.

### **Office of Legislative Services Comments:**

To implement the legislation, DHS would issue a Request for Proposal to solicit bids from qualified providers that wish to establish a regional diagnostic and treatment center in each of the four regions of the State. Once proposals are received and reviewed, the adequacy of the \$1.5 million General Fund appropriation can be better determined.

The following additional information is noted:

- Several medical centers (Hackensack, UMDNJ-Stratford, Newark Beth Israel and St. Peters/Robert Wood Johnson) already operate programs, primarily using federal grants, that offer many of the services identified in the legislation. The federal grants, according



to the Office on Child Abuse Prevention, will end in the near future.

- The FY 1998 appropriations act appropriated \$412,000 for "Regional Child Abuse Treatment Centers." These monies have been allocated to existing programs at Hackensack and St. Peters/Robert Wood Johnson.
- The FY 1998 appropriations act appropriated \$10.2 million for "Child Abuse Prevention" activities, \$1.8 million for "Morris/Sussex/Sexual Abuse Victims' Program," and \$1.0 million for "School Based Mental Health/Child Abuse Outreach." A portion of these appropriations is awarded to medical centers and hospitals for various child abuse and neglect services including diagnostic and treatment services to children and their families.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.

# SENATE, No. 857

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 5, 1998

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator WYNONA M. LIPMAN**

**District 29 (Essex and Union)**

**Senator C. LOUIS BASSANO**

**District 21 (Essex and Union)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Rice**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes four regional diagnostic and treatment centers for child abuse; appropriates \$1.5 million.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/24/1998)**

1 AN ACT establishing regional diagnostic and treatment centers for  
2 child abuse and neglect and making an appropriation.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish four  
8 regional diagnostic and treatment centers for child abuse and neglect  
9 affiliated with medical teaching institutions in the State that meet the  
10 standards adopted by the commissioner, in consultation with the New  
11 Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. The regional centers  
12 shall be located in the northern, north central, south central and  
13 southern regions of the State. Each center shall have experience in  
14 addressing the medical and mental health diagnostic and treatment  
15 needs of abused and neglected children in the region in which it is  
16 located.

17

18 2. Each center shall demonstrate a multidisciplinary approach to  
19 identifying and responding to child abuse and neglect. The center staff  
20 shall include, at a minimum, a pediatrician, a consulting psychiatrist,  
21 a psychologist and a social worker who are trained to evaluate and  
22 treat children who have been abused or neglected and their families.  
23 Each center shall establish a liaison with the district office of the  
24 Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human  
25 Services and the prosecutor's office from the county in which the child  
26 who is undergoing evaluation and treatment resides. At least one  
27 member of the staff shall also have an appropriate professional  
28 credential or significant training and experience in the identification  
29 and treatment of substance abuse.

30 Each center shall develop an intake, referral and case tracking  
31 process which assists the division and prosecutor's office in assuring  
32 that child victims receive appropriate and timely diagnostic and  
33 treatment services.

34

35 3. The regional centers shall: evaluate and treat child abuse and  
36 neglect; be resources for the region and develop additional resources  
37 within the region; provide training and consultative services; and be  
38 available for emergency phone consultation 24 hours a day. The  
39 centers shall also be a source for research and training for additional  
40 medical and mental health personnel dedicated to the identification and  
41 treatment of child abuse and neglect.

42 The regional center may charge a sliding scale fee for services  
43 provided under this act.

44

45 4. Services provided by the center's staff shall include, but not be  
46 limited to:

- 1 a. Providing psychological and medical evaluation and treatment
- 2 of the child, counseling for family members and substance abuse
- 3 assessment and mental health and substance abuse counseling for the
- 4 parents or guardians of the child;
- 5 b. Providing referral for appropriate social services and medical
- 6 care;
- 7 c. Providing testimony regarding alleged child abuse or neglect at
- 8 judicial proceedings;
- 9 d. Providing treatment recommendations for the child and mental
- 10 health and substance abuse treatment recommendations for his family,
- 11 and providing mental health and substance abuse treatment
- 12 recommendations for persons convicted of child abuse or neglect;
- 13 e. Receiving referrals from the Division of Youth and Family
- 14 Services and the county prosecutor's office and assisting them in any
- 15 investigation of child abuse or neglect;
- 16 f. Providing educational material and seminars on child abuse and
- 17 neglect and the services the center provides to children, parents,
- 18 teachers, law enforcement officials, the judiciary, attorneys and other
- 19 citizens.
- 20
- 21 5. The regional center shall ensure the safety of a child undergoing
- 22 treatment while the child is at the regional center to the extent
- 23 permitted by law. The appropriate law enforcement officials and
- 24 protective services providers shall continue to ensure the safety of the
- 25 child to the extent permitted by law.
- 26
- 27 6. Regional centers shall act as a resource in the establishment and
- 28 maintenance of county-based multidisciplinary teams which work in
- 29 conjunction with the county prosecutor and the Division of Youth and
- 30 Family Services in the investigation of child abuse and neglect in the
- 31 county in which the child who is undergoing evaluation and treatment
- 32 resides. The Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with
- 33 the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect, shall establish
- 34 standards for a county team. The county team shall consist of
- 35 representatives of the following disciplines: law enforcement; child
- 36 protective services; mental health; substance abuse identification and
- 37 treatment; and medicine, all of whom have been trained to recognize
- 38 child abuse and neglect. The county team shall provide: facilitation of
- 39 the investigation, management and disposition of cases of criminal
- 40 child abuse and neglect; referral services to the regional diagnostic
- 41 center; appropriate referrals to medical and social service agencies;
- 42 information regarding the identification and treatment of child abuse
- 43 and neglect; and appropriate follow-up care for abused children and
- 44 their families.
- 45
- 46 7. There is established a 15 member Diagnostic and Treatment

1 Advisory Council to oversee the programs of the regional centers, help  
2 facilitate communications among the centers, county teams, law  
3 enforcement officials and the Division of Youth and Family Services,  
4 develop standards of care for the treatment of child abuse, and help  
5 coordinate any research it deems appropriate. The council shall  
6 consist of: the Commissioners of the Departments of Human Services,  
7 Health and Senior Services and Education, and the Attorney General,  
8 or their designees; the Director of the Division of Youth and Family  
9 Services; the directors of the four regional centers; a physician; a  
10 social worker; a psychologist; a certified alcohol and drug abuse  
11 counselor or other professional appropriately credentialed to identify  
12 and treat substance abuse; an advocate for abused and neglected  
13 children; and a person who has utilized the services of a center. The  
14 Governor shall appoint the six public members of the council, who  
15 shall serve as members for three years.

16 The advisory council shall report annually to the Governor and the  
17 Legislature regarding the effectiveness of the regional centers and shall  
18 make recommendations for improvements or changes.

19

20 8. The Commissioner of Human Services shall adopt rules and  
21 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act" P.L.1968,  
22 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) necessary to effectuate the provisions of  
23 this act.

24

25 9. There is appropriated \$1.5 million from the General Fund to the  
26 Department of Human Services to carry out the purposes of this act.

27

28 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

29

#### 30 STATEMENT

31

32 This bill establishes four regional diagnostic and treatment centers  
33 for child abuse and neglect affiliated with medical centers in the State  
34 that meet standards adopted by the Commissioner of Human Services,  
35 in consultation with the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and  
36 Neglect. Each center's staff shall include, at a minimum, a  
37 pediatrician, a consulting psychiatrist, a psychologist and a social  
38 worker who are trained to evaluate and treat children who have been  
39 abused and neglected and their families. The regional centers would:

- 40 • Evaluate and treat child abuse and neglect,
- 41 • Be a resource for the region and develop additional resources  
42 within a region,
- 43 • Provide training and consultative services,
- 44 • Provide 24-hour daily emergency phone consultation,
- 45 • Be a source for research and training for additional medical and  
46 mental health personnel dedicated to the identification and

**S857 LIPMAN, BASSANO**

5

- 1 treatment of child abuse and neglect, and
- 2 • Provide liaison with the appropriate Division of Youth and Family
- 3 Services (DYFS) district office and county prosecutor's office.
- 4 The bill appropriates \$1.5 million from the General Fund to the
- 5 Department of Human Services to implement the program.

SENATE SENIOR CITIZENS, VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 857**

with committee amendments

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 23, 1998

The Senate Senior Citizens, Veterans' Affairs and Human Services Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 857.

This bill establishes four regional diagnostic and treatment centers for child abuse and neglect affiliated with medical centers in the State that meet standards adopted by the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. Each center's staff shall include, at a minimum, a pediatrician, a consulting psychiatrist, a psychologist and a social worker who are trained to evaluate and treat children who have been abused and neglected and their families. The regional centers would:

- Evaluate and treat child abuse and neglect,
- Be a resource for the region and develop additional resources within a region,
- Provide training and consultative services,
- Provide 24-hour daily emergency phone consultation,
- Be a source for research and training for additional medical and mental health personnel dedicated to the identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect, and
- Provide liaison with the appropriate Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) district office and county prosecutor's office.

The bill establishes a 19-member Diagnostic and Treatment Advisory Council to oversee the programs of the regional centers.

Also, the bill appropriates \$1.5 million from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services to implement the program.

The committee adopted an amendment to add two members of the Assembly and two members of the Senate to the Diagnostic and Treatment Advisory Council.

This bill is identical to A-1301 Sca (Heck/Stuhltrager) which the committee also reported favorably on this date.

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

## SENATE, No. 857

with committee amendments

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 26, 1998

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 857 (1R).

Senate Bill No. 857 (1R), as amended, establishes four regional diagnostic and treatment centers for child abuse and neglect affiliated with medical centers in the State that meet standards adopted by the Commissioner of Human Services, in consultation with the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. Each center's staff shall include, at a minimum, a pediatrician, a consulting psychiatrist, a psychologist and a social worker who are trained to evaluate and treat children who have been abused and neglected and their families. The regional centers would:

- Evaluate and treat child abuse and neglect,
- Be a resource for the region and develop additional resources within a region,
- Provide training and consultative services,
- Provide 24-hour daily emergency phone consultation,
- Be a source for research and training for additional medical and mental health personnel dedicated to the identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect, and
- Provide liaison with the appropriate Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) district office and county prosecutor's office.

The bill establishes a Diagnostic and Treatment Advisory Council to oversee the programs of the regional center.

The bill appropriates \$1.5 million from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services to implement the program.

As amended by the committee, the form of the bill is identical to the form in which it was passed by the General Assembly.

### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The adopted amendments to the bill to remove a provision for the inclusion of four legislative members on the Diagnostic and Treatment Advisory Council.



**FISCAL IMPACT:**

This bill makes a General Fund appropriation of \$1.5 million to the Department of Human Services (DHS). To implement the legislation, DHS would issue a Request for Proposal to solicit bids from qualified providers that wish to establish a regional diagnostic and treatment center in four regions of the State. Once proposals are received and reviewed, the adequacy of the \$1.5 million General Fund appropriation can be better determined.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

## SENATE, No. 857

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 208th LEGISLATURE

DATED: APRIL 17, 1998

### **Bill Summary:**

Senate Bill No. 857 of 1998 establishes four regional diagnostic and treatment centers for child abuse and neglect affiliated with medical centers in the State that meet standards adopted by the Commissioner of Human Services in consultation with the Governor's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. Each center's staff shall include, at a minimum, a pediatrician, a consulting psychiatrist, a psychologist and a social worker who are trained to evaluate and treat children who have been abused and neglected and their families. The regional centers would:

- Evaluate and treat child abuse and neglect,
- Be a resource for the region and develop additional resources within a region,
- Provide training and consultative services,
- Provide 24-hour daily emergency phone consultation,
- Be a source for research and training for additional medical and mental health personnel dedicated to the identification and treatment of child abuse and neglect, and
- Provide liaison with the appropriate Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) district office and county prosecutor's office.

The bill appropriates \$1.5 million from the General Fund to implement the program.

### **Agency Comments:**

DHS and the Office of Management and Budget have not provided any fiscal information on the legislation.

### **Office of Legislative Services Comments:**

To implement the legislation, DHS would issue a Request for Proposal to solicit bids from qualified providers that wish to establish a regional diagnostic and treatment center in each of the four regions of the State. Once proposals are received and reviewed, the adequacy of the \$1.5 million General Fund appropriation can be better determined.

The following additional information is noted:

- Several medical centers (Hackensack, UMDNJ-Stratford, Newark Beth Israel and St. Peters/Robert Wood Johnson) already operate programs, primarily using federal grants, that offer many of the services identified in the legislation. The federal grants, according to the Office on Child Abuse Prevention, will end in the near future.
- The FY 1998 appropriations act appropriated \$412,000 for "Regional Child Abuse Treatment Centers." These monies have been allocated to existing programs at Hackensack and St. Peters/Robert Wood Johnson.
- The FY 1998 appropriations act appropriated \$10.2 million for "Child Abuse Prevention" activities, \$1.8 million for "Morris/Sussex/Sexual Abuse Victims' Program," and \$1.0 million for "School Based Mental Health/Child Abuse Outreach." A portion of these appropriations is awarded to medical centers and hospitals for various child abuse and neglect services including diagnostic and treatment services to children and their families.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.

**Office of the Governor**  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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TRENTON, NJ 08625

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor  
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RELEASE: May 8, 1998

**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
**Governor's Weekly Radio Message**  
**Addresses Making New Jersey the Best Place to be a Mother**

Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans.

This week the Governor discusses her efforts to make New Jersey the best place to be a mother. New Jersey has several laws and programs created specifically to help mothers and their children. Gov. Whitman established the KidCare program, which helps to provide health insurance to over 100,000 New Jersey kids. Another program, Bright Beginnings, helps provide child care options to mothers who work outside their homes. The Governor has passed a law requiring insurance companies in our state to cover at least a 48-hour maternity stay for all mothers at the time of their delivery. In addition to these programs, she has also helped parents to raise children who will be safe by passing Megan's law and prepared for the future by establishing new core curriculum standards.

Attached is the text of the message.

The radio message can be accessed by calling the Governor's actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend.

**Governor's Weekly Radio Message**  
**May 8, 1998**

A wise person once described motherhood this way. "A mother," she said, "is a person who, seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five people, promptly announces she never did care for pie."

My mother, Eleanor Schley Todd, was a lot like that. She passed away several years ago, but I will always remember and appreciate her influence and inspiration in my life. She convinced me that I was capable of anything I put my will and talent toward achieving.

As Governor, I want to make my mother proud. With the help of citizens and the Legislature, I want to make New Jersey the best place to live in America - and that includes making it the best place to be a mother.

Here are a few ways we're doing that.

To protect the health of expectant mothers and their children, we passed a law that requires doctors to tell them about the benefits of being tested for HIV infection.

To protect the health of brand-new mothers and their infants, we made sure that insurance companies in our state cover at least a 48-hour maternity stay - and twice as long if it's a c-section.

To make sure that all parents can give their children the health care they need, we started a program called KidCare, which will help provide health insurance to more than 100,000 New Jersey kids.

To help moms and dads rear children who learn what they'll need for the future, we established rigorous new core academic standards for every public school in New Jersey.

To assist mothers who work outside the home, we initiated a program called Bright Beginnings to improve and increase child care options in New Jersey.

To give parents a little more help in protecting their children, we passed Megan's Law to inform communities when convicted sex offenders move in.

To improve the health of mothers and, indeed, all women in our state, we established a Breast Cancer Research Fund and added a check-off box on the income tax form for that fund.

Sadly, we recognize that some mothers don't get the respect and treatment they deserve. Too many of us know someone who is the victim of domestic violence.

We've passed a number of laws to help and protect domestic violence victims. Just as important, we fund a statewide domestic violence hotline, 1-800-572-SAFE.

I'll repeat that number in a moment. I ask you to write the number down, and make sure your friends have it too. The best gift on this Mother's Day just might be to help save a woman who has been the victim of domestic violence. Once again, the domestic violence hotline number is: 1-800-572-SAFE.

Fortunately, most of us who are mothers enjoy healthy, happy lives. For most mothers, life is filled with the chores and challenges and miracles of motherhood.

In that spirit, I want to leave you with a quote from a woman named Maureen Hawkins, who described a mother's special relationship with her child this way. She wrote: "Before you were conceived, I wanted you. Before you were born I loved you. Before you were here an hour I would die for you. That is the miracle of life."

Happy Mother's Day.

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