

30:41-3

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

LAWS OF: 1999 **CHAPTER:** 171

NJSA: 30:41-3 (NJ Kids Care—partnership)

BILL NO: S1757 (Substituted for A2979)

SPONSOR(S): DiFrancesco & Allen

DATE INTRODUCED: March 15, 1999

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Appropriations

SENATE: Health; Budget & Appropriations

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** June 14, 1999

SENATE: May 24, 1999

DATE OF APPROVAL: July 26, 1999

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

[FINAL TEXT OF BILL](#): 2nd Reprint

(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

S1757

[SPONSORS STATEMENT](#): (Begins on page 4 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: [ASSEMBLY:](#) [Yes](#)

SENATE: [Yes](#) [3-15-99 \(Health\)](#)
[Yes](#) [5-20-99 \(Budget\)](#)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

A2979

[SPONSORS STATEMENT](#): (Begins on page 4 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** [Yes](#) [5-17-99 \(Health\)](#)
Identical to Senate Health Statement for S1757
[Yes](#) [6-3-99 \(Appropriations\)](#)
Identical to Senate Budget Statement for S1757

SENATE: No

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: No

[LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:](#) [Yes](#)

VETO MESSAGE:

No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:

Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext. or refdesk@njstatelib.org

REPORTS:

No

HEARINGS:

No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

Yes

"Health safety net catches more kids," 7-27-99, Star Ledger p. 16.

§3 - C. 18A:40-34
Article 7 Health Care
Coverage Outreach
§4 - C. 26:1A-15.3
§5 - C. 30:5B-5.4
§6 - Approp.

P.L. 1999, CHAPTER 171, *approved July 26, 1999*
Senate, No. 1757 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning outreach for the Children's Health Care Coverage
2 Program, amending and supplementing P.L.1997, c.272,
3 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes and ²[Title]
4 Titles 26 and² 30 of the Revised Statutes, and making an
5 appropriation.
6

7 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
8 of New Jersey:
9

10 1. Section 3 of P.L.1997, c.272 (C.30:4I-3) is amended to read as
11 follows:

12 3. As used in this act:

13 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

14 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

15 "Program" means the Children's Health Care Coverage Program
16 established pursuant to this act.

17 (cf: P.L.1997, c.272, s.3)
18

19 2. Section 4 of P.L.1997, c.272 (C.30:4I-4) is amended to read as
20 follows:

21 4. a. The Children's Health Care Coverage Program is established
22 in the Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program
23 shall be to provide subsidized private health insurance coverage, and
24 other health care benefits as determined by the commissioner, to
25 children from birth through 18 years of age within the limits of funds
26 appropriated or otherwise made available for the program. The
27 program shall require copayments and a premium contribution from
28 families with incomes which exceed 150% of the official poverty level,
29 which shall be based upon a sliding income scale. The program shall
30 include the provision of well-child and other preventive services,
31 hospitalization, physician care, laboratory and x-ray services,
32 prescription drugs, mental health services, and other services as
33 determined by the commissioner.

34 b. The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of
35 Health and Senior Services, shall take such actions as are necessary to

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 underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SHH committee amendments adopted March 15, 1999.

² Senate SBA committee amendments adopted May 20, 1999.

1 implement and operate the program in accordance with the provisions
2 governing the State Children's Health Insurance Program in Title XXI
3 of the federal Social Security Act, as provided in Subtitle J of Title IV
4 of the federal "Balanced Budget Act of 1997," Pub.L.105-33.

5 c. The commissioner shall by regulation establish standards for
6 determining eligibility and other requirements for the program,
7 including, but not limited to, premium payments and copayments, and
8 may contract with one or more appropriate entities to assist in
9 administering the program. The commissioner shall take, or cause to
10 be taken, any action necessary to secure for the State the maximum
11 amount of federal financial participation available with respect to the
12 program, subject to the constraints of fiscal responsibility and within
13 the limits of available funding in any fiscal year.

14 d. The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of
15 Education¹ and the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services¹,
16 shall establish a partnership initiative between the program and public
17 elementary and secondary schools¹ [and] ¹ licensed child care
18 centers², registered family day care homes, and unified child care
19 agencies² in this State¹, federally qualified health centers² [,
20 community] and local² health² [centers] departments² that provide
21 primary care² [and local health departments¹]² to provide outreach to
22 children throughout the State who are potentially eligible for the
23 program. Under this partnership, the commissioner shall arrange for:

24 (1) the provision by the department to each public elementary and
25 secondary school¹ [and] ¹ licensed child care center², registered
26 family day care home, and unified child care agency² in the State¹,
27 federally qualified health center² [, community] and local² health
28 ²[center]department² that provides primary care² [and local health
29 department¹]² of informational materials about the program, including
30 the potential costs and benefits for a participating household, as well
31 as program application forms and postage-paid envelopes to submit
32 completed applications to the department, which the school¹ [or],¹
33 child care center², registered family day care home, unified child care
34 agency² ¹, health center or local health department¹, as applicable,
35 shall make available to persons wishing to apply for the program;

36 (2) the provision to each public elementary and secondary school
37 ¹ [and],¹ licensed child care center², registered family day care
38 home, and unified child care agency² in the State¹, federally
39 qualified health center² [, community] and local² health
40 ²[center]department² that provides primary care² [and local health
41 department¹]² of a notice to be distributed at least annually to the
42 households of children attending the school or child care center², or
43 being cared for by the registered family day care home, or assisted by
44 the unified child care agency² ¹ or receiving health care services from
45 the health center or local health department¹, as applicable, informing

1 them about the availability of the informational materials, application
 2 forms and postage-paid envelopes provided by the department
 3 pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, with respect to which
 4 distribution the department shall reimburse the school or child care
 5 center², or registered family day care home, or unified child care
 6 agency² ¹or health center or local health department¹ for the costs
 7 thereof in accordance with procedures established by the
 8 commissioner; and

9 (3) a payment to be made by the department in the amount of \$25
 10 to a school¹ [or],¹ child care center², registered family day care
 11 home, unified child care agency² ¹, federally qualified health center
 12 ²[, community] or local² health² [center] department² that provides
 13 primary care¹ ²[or local health department¹]² for each household
 14 enrolled in the program which was referred by that¹ [school or child
 15 care center, which] respective entity, and to which household the
 16 entity has provided assistance with enrollment in the program. The¹
 17 payment shall be made upon the determination of eligibility for the
 18 program by the department with respect to that household, including
 19 the receipt of any initial premium contribution from the household as
 20 required by the commissioner pursuant to this section.

21 (cf: P.L.1997, c.272, s.4)

22

23 3. (New section) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation
 24 with the Commissioner of Human Services and pursuant to the
 25 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
 26 seq.), shall adopt regulations to:

27 a. provide for the implementation by the board of education in
 28 each school district of such procedures by each public elementary and
 29 secondary school in the district as the commissioner deems necessary
 30 to effectuate the purposes of subsection d. of section 4 of P.L.1997,
 31 c.272 (C.30:4I-4); and

32 b. facilitate and provide for the participation of nonpublic
 33 elementary and secondary schools in the partnership initiative created
 34 pursuant to subsection d. of section 4 of P.L.1997, c.272 (C.30:4I-4),
 35 including the provision of in-kind awards to participating nonpublic
 36 schools, in the form of educational resource materials that would be
 37 the property of the public schools, for each household enrolled in the
 38 Children's Health Care Coverage Program established pursuant to
 39 P.L.1997, c.272 (C.30:4I-1 et seq.) which was referred by the
 40 nonpublic school.

41

42 ²4. (New section) The Commissioner of Health and Senior
 43 Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services
 44 and pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act, " P.L.1968, c.410
 45 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall adopt regulations to provide for the
 46 implementation by federally qualified health centers and local health

1 departments that provide primary care of such procedures as the
2 commissioner deems necessary to effectuate the purposes of
3 subsection d. of section 4 of P.L.1997, c.272 (C.30:4I-4).²

4
5 ²[4.] 5.² (New section) The Commissioner of Human Services,
6 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
7 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall adopt regulations to provide for the
8 implementation by licensed child care centers ², registered family day
9 care homes, and unified child care agencies² of such procedures as
10 the commissioner deems necessary to effectuate the purposes of
11 subsection d. of section 4 of P.L.1997, c.272 (C.30:4I-4) .

12
13 ²[5.] 6.² There is appropriated \$75,000 from the General Fund to
14 the Department of Human Services to carry out the provisions of this
15 act.

16
17 ²[6.] 7.² This act shall take effect immediately.

18

19

20

21

22 Establishes partnership between NJ KidCare and schools, child care
23 centers, registered family day care homes, unified child care agencies,
24 health centers and local health departments; appropriates \$75,000.

SENATE, No. 1757

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 15, 1999

Sponsored by:

Senator DONALD T. DIFRANCESCO

District 22 (Middlesex, Morris, Somerset and Union)

Senator DIANE ALLEN

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Matheussen, Singer, Inverso and Bucco

SYNOPSIS

Establishes partnership between NJ KidCare and schools and child care centers; appropriates \$75,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/16/1999)

1 AN ACT concerning outreach for the Children's Health Care Coverage
2 Program, amending and supplementing P.L.1997, c.272,
3 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 30 of
4 the Revised Statutes, and making an appropriation.

5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:

8

9 1. Section 3 of P.L.1997, c.272 (C.30:4I-3) is amended to read as
10 follows:

11 3. As used in this act:

12 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

13 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

14 "Program" means the Children's Health Care Coverage Program
15 established pursuant to this act.

16 (cf: P.L.1997, c.272, s.3)

17

18 2. Section 4 of P.L.1997, c.272 (C.30:4I-4) is amended to read as
19 follows:

20 4. a. The Children's Health Care Coverage Program is established
21 in the Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program
22 shall be to provide subsidized private health insurance coverage, and
23 other health care benefits as determined by the commissioner, to
24 children from birth through 18 years of age within the limits of funds
25 appropriated or otherwise made available for the program. The
26 program shall require copayments and a premium contribution from
27 families with incomes which exceed 150% of the official poverty level,
28 which shall be based upon a sliding income scale. The program shall
29 include the provision of well-child and other preventive services,
30 hospitalization, physician care, laboratory and x-ray services,
31 prescription drugs, mental health services, and other services as
32 determined by the commissioner.

33 b. The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of
34 Health and Senior Services, shall take such actions as are necessary to
35 implement and operate the program in accordance with the provisions
36 governing the State Children's Health Insurance Program in Title XXI
37 of the federal Social Security Act, as provided in Subtitle J of Title IV
38 of the federal "Balanced Budget Act of 1997," Pub.L.105-33.

39 c. The commissioner shall by regulation establish standards for
40 determining eligibility and other requirements for the program,
41 including, but not limited to, premium payments and copayments, and
42 may contract with one or more appropriate entities to assist in
43 administering the program. The commissioner shall take, or cause to

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 underlined thus is new matter.

1 be taken, any action necessary to secure for the State the maximum
2 amount of federal financial participation available with respect to the
3 program, subject to the constraints of fiscal responsibility and within
4 the limits of available funding in any fiscal year.

5 d. The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of
6 Education, shall establish a partnership initiative between the program
7 and public elementary and secondary schools and licensed child care
8 centers in this State to provide outreach to children throughout the
9 State who are potentially eligible for the program. Under this
10 partnership, the commissioner shall arrange for:

11 (1) the provision by the department to each public elementary and
12 secondary school and licensed child care center in the State of
13 informational materials about the program, including the potential
14 costs and benefits for a participating household, as well as program
15 application forms and postage-paid envelopes to submit completed
16 applications to the department, which the school or child care center,
17 as applicable, shall make available to persons wishing to apply for the
18 program;

19 (2) the provision to each public elementary and secondary school
20 and licensed child care center in the State of a notice to be distributed
21 at least annually to the households of children attending the school or
22 child care center, as applicable, informing them about the availability
23 of the informational materials, application forms and postage-paid
24 envelopes provided by the department pursuant to paragraph (1) of
25 this subsection, with respect to which distribution the department shall
26 reimburse the school or child care center for the costs thereof in
27 accordance with procedures established by the commissioner; and

28 (3) a payment to be made by the department in the amount of \$25
29 to a school or child care center for each household enrolled in the
30 program which was referred by that school or child care center, which
31 payment shall be made upon the determination of eligibility for the
32 program by the department with respect to that household, including
33 the receipt of any initial premium contribution from the household as
34 required by the commissioner pursuant to this section.

35 (cf: P.L.1997, c.272, s.4)

36
37 3. (New section) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation
38 with the Commissioner of Human Services and pursuant to the
39 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
40 seq.), shall adopt regulations to:

41 a. provide for the implementation by the board of education in
42 each school district of such procedures by each public elementary and
43 secondary school in the district as the commissioner deems necessary
44 to effectuate the purposes of subsection d. of section 4 of P.L.1997,
45 c.272 (C.30:4I-4); and

46 b. facilitate and provide for the participation of nonpublic

1 elementary and secondary schools in the partnership initiative created
2 pursuant to subsection d. of section 4 of P.L.1997, c.272 (C.30:4I-4),
3 including the provision of in-kind awards to participating nonpublic
4 schools, in the form of educational resource materials that would be
5 the property of the public schools, for each household enrolled in the
6 Children's Health Care Coverage Program established pursuant to
7 P.L.1997, c.272 (C.30:4I-1 et seq.) which was referred by the
8 nonpublic school.

9
10 4. (New section) The Commissioner of Human Services, pursuant
11 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
12 et seq.), shall adopt regulations to provide for the implementation by
13 licensed child care centers of such procedures as the commissioner
14 deems necessary to effectuate the purposes of subsection d. of section
15 4 of P.L.1997, c.272 (C.30:4I-4) .

16
17 5. There is appropriated \$75,000 from the General Fund to the
18 Department of Human Services to carry out the provisions of this act.

19
20 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

21
22 STATEMENT

23
24 This bill establishes a partnership initiative between the Children's
25 Health Care Coverage Program (NJ KidCare) established pursuant to
26 P.L.1997, c.272 (N.J.S.A.30:4I-1 et seq.) and public elementary and
27 secondary schools and licensed child care centers in this State to
28 provide outreach to children who are potentially eligible for the
29 program.

30 Under this partnership, the Commissioner of Human Services shall
31 arrange for:

32 (1) the provision by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to
33 each public elementary and secondary school and licensed child care
34 center in the State of informational materials about NJ KidCare,
35 including the potential costs and benefits of the program for a
36 participating household, as well as program application forms and
37 postage-paid envelopes to submit completed applications to the
38 department, which the school or child care center, as applicable, shall
39 make available to persons wishing to apply for the program;

40 (2) the provision to each public elementary and secondary school
41 and licensed child care center in the State of a notice to be distributed
42 at least annually to the households of children attending the school or
43 child care center, as applicable, informing them about the availability
44 of the informational materials, application forms and postage-paid
45 envelopes provided by DHS pursuant to this bill, with respect to which
46 distribution DHS shall reimburse the school or child care center for the

1 costs thereof in accordance with procedures established by the
2 Commissioner of Human Services; and

3 (3) a payment to be made by DHS in the amount of \$25 to a school
4 or child care center for each household enrolled in NJ KidCare which
5 was referred by that school or child care center, which payment shall
6 be made upon the determination of eligibility for the program by DHS
7 with respect to that household, including the receipt of any initial
8 premium contribution from the household as required by the
9 Commissioner of Human Services pursuant to N.J.S.A.30:4I-4.

10 The bill also directs the Commissioner of Education, in consultation
11 with the Commissioner of Human Services, to adopt regulations to
12 facilitate and provide for the participation of nonpublic elementary and
13 secondary schools in the partnership initiative, including the provision
14 of in-kind awards to participating nonpublic schools, in the form of
15 educational resource materials that would be the property of the public
16 schools, for each household enrolled in NJ KidCare which was referred
17 by the nonpublic school.

18 Finally, the bill appropriates \$75,000 to DHS to cover the costs of
19 implementing this partnership initiative. This includes the costs of:

- 20 • the NJ KidCare informational materials, application forms and
21 postage-paid envelopes provided by DHS to schools and child care
22 centers;
- 23 • the reimbursement by DHS of the costs incurred by each school and
24 child care center in distributing the notice supplied by DHS to the
25 households of children attending the school or center, as applicable;
26 and
- 27 • payments to public schools and child care centers (and in-kind
28 awards to nonpublic schools) for referring households which are
29 determined to be eligible for NJ KidCare.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1757

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 3, 1999

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1757 (2R).

Senate Bill No. 1757 (2R) establishes a partnership initiative between the Children's Health Care Coverage Program ("NJ KidCare") and various public and private entities to provide outreach to children who are potentially eligible for the program.

NJ KidCare is a program that provides children from low-income families who are under 19 years of age with subsidized private health insurance coverage, well-child and other preventive services, hospitalization, physician care, laboratory and x-ray services, prescription drugs, mental health services, and other benefits as determined by the Commissioner of Human Services. The program is designed in accordance with the provisions of the "State Children's Health Insurance Program" under Title XXI of the federal Social Security Act and is funded in substantial part with federal funds authorized under that title.

Under the bill, the entities designated for participation in the outreach initiative are: public elementary and secondary schools; licensed child care centers, registered family day care homes and unified child care agencies; federally qualified health centers; and local health departments that provide primary care. In implementing the outreach program through these partnership entities, the Commissioner of Human Services is to arrange for:

(1) Provision by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to each entity of informational materials about NJ KidCare, including the potential costs and benefits of the program for a participating household, as well as program application forms and postage-paid envelopes for submitting completed applications to the department. The partnership entity is to make these materials available to persons wishing to apply for enrollment in the program;

(2) Provision to each partnership entity of a notice, to be distributed at least annually to the households of children that the entity serves, informing them of the availability of the informational materials, application forms and postage-paid envelopes. DHS would

reimburse partnership entities for the costs of distributing the informational and application materials; and

(3) Payment of \$25 by DHS to any partnership entity for each household enrolled in NJ KidCare that was referred by that entity, and to which household the entity has provided assistance with enrollment in the program. The payment shall be made upon DHS's determination of the household's eligibility for such enrollment.

The bill directs the commissioners of Education and Health and Senior Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services, to adopt regulations that provide for the participation in the partnership initiative of the several partnership entities under their respective jurisdictions. In addition, the Commissioner of Education is directed to provide for the participation in the initiative of nonpublic schools through the offer of in-kind awards, in the form of educational resource materials that would be the property of the public schools, for each household enrolled in NJ KidCare that was referred by the nonpublic school.

As reported by this committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2979 (1R) as amended and reported by this committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill appropriates from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services the sum of \$75,000 to fund the purposes of the legislation.

SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1757

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 15, 1999

The Senate Health Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1757.

As amended by committee, this bill establishes a partnership initiative between the Children's Health Care Coverage Program (NJ KidCare) established pursuant to P.L.1997, c.272 (N.J.S.A.30:4I-1 et seq.) and public elementary and secondary schools, licensed child care centers in this State, federally qualified health centers, community health centers that provide primary care and local health departments to provide outreach to children who are potentially eligible for the program.

Under this partnership, the Commissioner of Human Services shall arrange for:

(1) the provision by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to each public elementary and secondary school, licensed child care center in the State, federally qualified health center, community health center that provides primary care and local health department of informational materials about NJ KidCare, including the potential costs and benefits of the program for a participating household, as well as program application forms and postage-paid envelopes to submit completed applications to the department, which the school, child care center, health center or local health department, as applicable, shall make available to persons wishing to apply for the program;

(2) the provision to each public elementary and secondary school, licensed child care center, health center and local health department, of a notice to be distributed at least annually to the households of children attending the school or center or receiving health care services from the health center or department, as applicable, informing them about the availability of the informational materials, application forms and postage-paid envelopes provided by DHS pursuant to this bill, with respect to which distribution DHS shall reimburse the school or child care center, health center or local health department for the costs thereof in accordance with procedures established by the Commissioner of Human Services; and

(3) a payment to be made by DHS in the amount of \$25 to a

school, child care center, health center or local health department for each household enrolled in NJ KidCare which was referred by that entity, and to which household the entity has provided assistance with enrollment in the program. The payment shall be made upon the determination of eligibility for the program by DHS with respect to that household, including the receipt of any initial premium contribution from the household as required by the Commissioner of Human Services pursuant to N.J.S.A.30:4I-4.

The bill also directs the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services, to adopt regulations to facilitate and provide for the participation of nonpublic elementary and secondary schools in the partnership initiative, including the provision of in-kind awards to participating nonpublic schools, in the form of educational resource materials that would be the property of the public schools, for each household enrolled in NJ KidCare which was referred by the nonpublic school.

Finally, the bill appropriates \$75,000 to DHS to cover the costs of implementing this partnership initiative. This includes the costs of:

- the NJ KidCare informational materials, application forms and postage-paid envelopes provided by DHS to schools, child care centers, health centers and local health departments;
- the reimbursement by DHS of the costs incurred by each school, child care center, health center and local health department in distributing the notice supplied by DHS to the households of children attending the school or receiving health care services from the health centers or department, as applicable; and
- payments to public schools, child care centers (and in-kind awards to nonpublic schools), health centers or local health departments for referring households which are determined to be eligible for NJ KidCare.

The committee amendments:

-- require the commissioner to arrange for the provision of information materials and the annual notice, the reimbursement of incurred costs and the \$25 payment to a federally qualified health center, community health center that provides primary care or a local health department (in addition to schools and child care centers) for each household enrolled in the program;

-- clarify that the school, child care center, health center or local health department must have provided assistance with enrollment in the program to that household to receive the \$25 payment; and

-- specify that the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall consult with the Commissioners of Education and Human Services in establishing the partnership initiative.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1757

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 20, 1999

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1757 (1R).

This bill establishes a partnership initiative between the Children's Health Care Coverage Program ("NJ KidCare") and various public and private entities to provide outreach to children who are potentially eligible for the program.

NJ KidCare is a program that provides children from low-income families who are under 19 years of age with subsidized private health insurance coverage, well-child and other preventive services, hospitalization, physician care, laboratory and x-ray services, prescription drugs, mental health services, and other benefits as determined by the Commissioner of Human Services. The program is designed in accordance with the provisions of the "State Children's Health Insurance Program" under Title XXI of the federal Social Security Act and is funded in substantial part with federal funds authorized under that title.

Under the bill as amended, the entities designated for participation in the outreach initiative are: public elementary and secondary schools; licensed child care centers, registered family day care homes and unified child care agencies; federally qualified health centers; and local health departments that provide primary care. In implementing the outreach program through these partnership entities, the Commissioner of Human Services is to arrange for:

(1) Provision by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to each entity of informational materials about NJ KidCare, including the potential costs and benefits of the program for a participating household, as well as program application forms and postage-paid envelopes for submitting completed applications to the department. The partnership entity is to make these materials available to persons wishing to apply for enrollment in the program;

(2) Provision to each partnership entity of a notice, to be distributed at least annually to the households of children that the entity serves, informing them of the availability of the informational

materials, application forms and postage-paid envelopes. DHS would reimburse partnership entities for the costs of distributing the informational and application materials; and

(3) Payment of \$25 by DHS to any partnership entity for each household enrolled in NJ KidCare that was referred by that entity, and to which household the entity has provided assistance with enrollment in the program. The payment shall be made upon DHS's determination of the household's eligibility for such enrollment.

The bill, as amended, also directs the commissioners of Education and Health and Senior Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services, to adopt regulations that provide for the participation in the partnership initiative of the several partnership entities under their respective jurisdictions. In addition, the Commissioner of Education is directed to provide for the participation in the initiative of nonpublic schools through the offer of in-kind awards, in the form of educational resource materials that would be the property of the public schools, for each household enrolled in NJ KidCare that was referred by the nonpublic school.

Finally, the bill appropriates \$75,000 to DHS to cover the costs of implementing this partnership initiative.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Committee amendments to this bill (1) revise the list of service entities that are to participate in the partnership initiative by adding registered family day care homes and unified child care agencies and replacing community health centers with local health departments, (2) incorporate a new section authorizing the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services to adopt regulations providing for implementation of the initiative by the partnership entities under that commissioner's regulatory authority, and (3) make appropriate technical changes.

FISCAL IMPACT

This bill appropriates from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services the sum of \$75,000 to fund the purposes of the legislation.

ASSEMBLY, No. 2979

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 18, 1999

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman SAMUEL D. THOMPSON

District 13 (Middlesex and Monmouth)

Assemblyman JOSEPH AZZOLINA

District 13 (Middlesex and Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

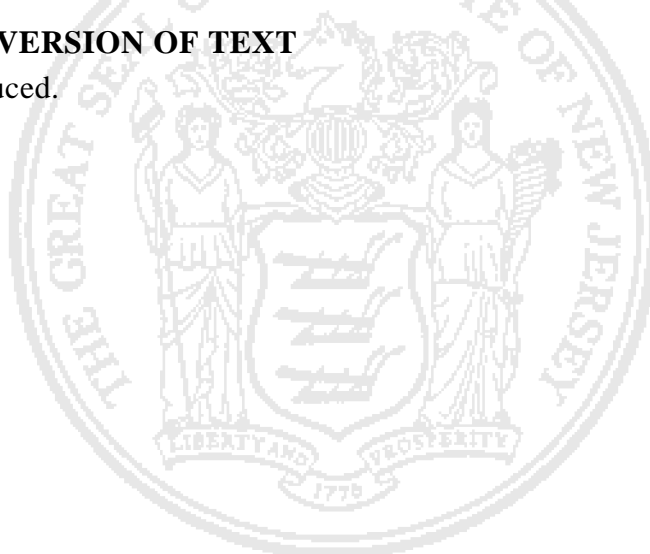
**Assemblymen T. Smith, Malone, Cottrell, Kelly, Assemblywoman Heck,
Assemblymen Gibson, DiGaetano, Geist, Luongo, Asselta, Arnone,
Corodemus, Lance, Zecker, Assemblywoman Crecco, Assemblymen
Conaway and LeFevre**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes partnership between NJ KidCare and schools and child care centers; appropriates \$75,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/30/1999)

1 AN ACT concerning outreach for the Children's Health Care Coverage
2 Program, amending and supplementing P.L.1997, c.272,
3 supplementing Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes and Title 30 of
4 the Revised Statutes, and making an appropriation.

5

6 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
7 of New Jersey:

8

9 1. Section 3 of P.L.1997, c.272 (C.30:4I-3) is amended to read as
10 follows:

11 3. As used in this act:

12 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

13 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

14 "Program" means the Children's Health Care Coverage Program
15 established pursuant to this act.

16 (cf: P.L.1997, c.272, s.3)

17

18 2. Section 4 of P.L.1997, c.272 (C.30:4I-4) is amended to read as
19 follows:

20 4. a. The Children's Health Care Coverage Program is established
21 in the Department of Human Services. The purpose of the program
22 shall be to provide subsidized private health insurance coverage, and
23 other health care benefits as determined by the commissioner, to
24 children from birth through 18 years of age within the limits of funds
25 appropriated or otherwise made available for the program. The
26 program shall require copayments and a premium contribution from
27 families with incomes which exceed 150% of the official poverty level,
28 which shall be based upon a sliding income scale. The program shall
29 include the provision of well-child and other preventive services,
30 hospitalization, physician care, laboratory and x-ray services,
31 prescription drugs, mental health services, and other services as
32 determined by the commissioner.

33 b. The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of
34 Health and Senior Services, shall take such actions as are necessary to
35 implement and operate the program in accordance with the provisions
36 governing the State Children's Health Insurance Program in Title XXI
37 of the federal Social Security Act, as provided in Subtitle J of Title IV
38 of the federal "Balanced Budget Act of 1997," Pub.L.105-33.

39 c. The commissioner shall by regulation establish standards for
40 determining eligibility and other requirements for the program,
41 including, but not limited to, premium payments and copayments, and
42 may contract with one or more appropriate entities to assist in
43 administering the program. The commissioner shall take, or cause to

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.

1 be taken, any action necessary to secure for the State the maximum
2 amount of federal financial participation available with respect to the
3 program, subject to the constraints of fiscal responsibility and within
4 the limits of available funding in any fiscal year.

5 d. The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of
6 Education, shall establish a partnership initiative between the program
7 and public elementary and secondary schools and licensed child care
8 centers in this State to provide outreach to children throughout the
9 State who are potentially eligible for the program. Under this
10 partnership, the commissioner shall arrange for:

11 (1) the provision by the department to each public elementary and
12 secondary school and licensed child care center in the State of
13 informational materials about the program, including the potential
14 costs and benefits for a participating household, as well as program
15 application forms and postage-paid envelopes to submit completed
16 applications to the department, which the school or child care center,
17 as applicable, shall make available to persons wishing to apply for the
18 program;

19 (2) the provision to each public elementary and secondary school
20 and licensed child care center in the State of a notice to be distributed
21 at least annually to the households of children attending the school or
22 child care center, as applicable, informing them about the availability
23 of the informational materials, application forms and postage-paid
24 envelopes provided by the department pursuant to paragraph (1) of
25 this subsection, with respect to which distribution the department shall
26 reimburse the school or child care center for the costs thereof in
27 accordance with procedures established by the commissioner; and

28 (3) a payment to be made by the department in the amount of \$25
29 to a school or child care center for each household enrolled in the
30 program which was referred by that school or child care center, which
31 payment shall be made upon the determination of eligibility for the
32 program by the department with respect to that household, including
33 the receipt of any initial premium contribution from the household as
34 required by the commissioner pursuant to this section.

35 (cf: P.L.1997, c.272, s.4)

36
37 3. (New section) The Commissioner of Education, in consultation
38 with the Commissioner of Human Services and pursuant to the
39 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et
40 seq.), shall adopt regulations to:

41 a. provide for the implementation by the board of education in
42 each school district of such procedures by each public elementary and
43 secondary school in the district as the commissioner deems necessary
44 to effectuate the purposes of subsection d. of section 4 of P.L.1997,
45 c.272 (C.30:4I-4); and

46 b. facilitate and provide for the participation of nonpublic

1 elementary and secondary schools in the partnership initiative created
2 pursuant to subsection d. of section 4 of P.L.1997, c.272 (C.30:4I-4),
3 including the provision of in-kind awards to participating nonpublic
4 schools, in the form of educational resource materials that would be
5 the property of the public schools, for each household enrolled in the
6 Children's Health Care Coverage Program established pursuant to
7 P.L.1997, c.272 (C.30:4I-1 et seq.) which was referred by the
8 nonpublic school.

9
10 4. (New section) The Commissioner of Human Services, pursuant
11 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
12 et seq.), shall adopt regulations to provide for the implementation by
13 licensed child care centers of such procedures as the commissioner
14 deems necessary to effectuate the purposes of subsection d. of section
15 4 of P.L.1997, c.272 (C.30:4I-4).

16
17 5. There is appropriated \$75,000 from the General Fund to the
18 Department of Human Services to carry out the provisions of this act.

19
20 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

21
22
23 STATEMENT
24

25 This bill establishes a partnership initiative between the Children's
26 Health Care Coverage Program (NJ KidCare) established pursuant to
27 P.L.1997, c.272 (N.J.S.A.30:4I-1 et seq.) and public elementary and
28 secondary schools and licensed child care centers in this State to
29 provide outreach to children who are potentially eligible for the
30 program.

31 Under this partnership, the Commissioner of Human Services shall
32 arrange for:

33 (1) the provision by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to
34 each public elementary and secondary school and licensed child care
35 center in the State of informational materials about NJ KidCare,
36 including the potential costs and benefits of the program for a
37 participating household, as well as program application forms and
38 postage-paid envelopes to submit completed applications to the
39 department, which the school or child care center, as applicable, shall
40 make available to persons wishing to apply for the program;

41 (2) the provision to each public elementary and secondary school
42 and licensed child care center in the State of a notice to be distributed
43 at least annually to the households of children attending the school or
44 child care center, as applicable, informing them about the availability
45 of the informational materials, application forms and postage-paid
46 envelopes provided by DHS pursuant to this bill, with respect to which

1 distribution DHS shall reimburse the school or child care center for the
2 costs thereof in accordance with procedures established by the
3 Commissioner of Human Services; and

4 (3) a payment to be made by DHS in the amount of \$25 to a school
5 or child care center for each household enrolled in NJ KidCare which
6 was referred by that school or child care center, which payment shall
7 be made upon the determination of eligibility for the program by DHS
8 with respect to that household, including the receipt of any initial
9 premium contribution from the household as required by the
10 Commissioner of Human Services pursuant to N.J.S.A.30:4I-4.

11 The bill also directs the Commissioner of Education, in consultation
12 with the Commissioner of Human Services, to adopt regulations to
13 facilitate and provide for the participation of nonpublic elementary and
14 secondary schools in the partnership initiative, including the provision
15 of in-kind awards to participating nonpublic schools, in the form of
16 educational resource materials that would be the property of the public
17 schools, for each household enrolled in NJ KidCare which was referred
18 by the nonpublic school.

19 Finally, the bill appropriates \$75,000 to DHS to cover the costs of
20 implementing this partnership initiative. This includes the costs of:

- 21 • the NJ KidCare informational materials, application forms and
22 postage-paid envelopes provided by DHS to schools and child care
23 centers;
- 24 • the reimbursement by DHS of the costs incurred by each school and
25 child care center in distributing the notice supplied by DHS to the
26 households of children attending the school or center, as applicable;
27 and
- 28 • payments to public schools and child care centers (and in-kind
29 awards to nonpublic schools) for referring households which are
30 determined to be eligible for NJ KidCare.

ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2979

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 17, 1999

The Assembly Health Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 2979.

As amended by the committee, this bill establishes a partnership initiative between the Children's Health Care Coverage Program (NJ KidCare) established pursuant to P.L.1997, c.272 (N.J.S.A.30:4I-1 et seq.) and public elementary and secondary schools, licensed child care centers in this State, federally qualified health centers, and local health departments that provide primary care to provide outreach to children who are potentially eligible for the program.

Under this partnership, the Commissioner of Human Services shall arrange for:

(1) the provision by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to each public elementary and secondary school, licensed child care center in the State, federally qualified health center, and local health department that provides primary care of informational materials about NJ KidCare, including the potential costs and benefits of the program for a participating household, as well as program application forms and postage-paid envelopes to submit completed applications to DHS, which the school, child care center, health center or local health department, as applicable, shall make available to persons wishing to apply for the program;

(2) the provision to each public elementary and secondary school, licensed child care center, health center and local health department, of a notice to be distributed at least annually to the households of children attending the school or center or receiving health care services from the health center or department, as applicable, informing them about the availability of the informational materials, application forms and postage-paid envelopes provided by DHS pursuant to this bill, with respect to which distribution DHS shall reimburse the school or child care center, health center or local health department for the costs thereof in accordance with procedures established by the Commissioner of Human Services; and

(3) a payment to be made by DHS in the amount of \$25 to a school, child care center, health center or local health department for each household enrolled in NJ KidCare which was referred by that entity, and to which household the entity has provided assistance with enrollment in the program. The payment shall be made upon the determination of eligibility for the program by DHS with respect to that household, including the receipt of any initial premium contribution from the household as required by the Commissioner of Human Services pursuant to N.J.S.A.30:4I-4.

The bill also directs the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services, to adopt regulations to facilitate and provide for the participation of nonpublic elementary and secondary schools in the partnership initiative, including the provision of in-kind awards to participating nonpublic schools, in the form of educational resource materials that would be the property of the public schools, for each household enrolled in NJ KidCare which was referred by the nonpublic school.

Finally, the bill appropriates \$75,000 to DHS to cover the costs of implementing this partnership initiative. This includes the costs of:

- the NJ KidCare informational materials, application forms and postage-paid envelopes provided by DHS to schools, child care centers, health centers and local health departments;
- the reimbursement by DHS of the costs incurred by each school, child care center, health center and local health department in distributing the notice supplied by DHS to the households of children attending the school or receiving health care services from the health centers or department, as applicable; and
- payments to public schools, child care centers (and in-kind awards to nonpublic schools), health centers or local health departments for referring households which are determined to be eligible for NJ KidCare.

The committee amendments:

-- require the commissioner to arrange for the provision of information materials and the annual notice, the reimbursement of incurred costs and the \$25 payment to a federally qualified health center or a local health department that provides primary care (in addition to schools and child care centers) for each household enrolled in the program;

-- clarify that the school, child care center, health center or local health department must have provided assistance with enrollment in the program to that household to receive the \$25 payment;

-- specify that the Commissioner of Human Services shall consult with the Commissioners of Education and Health and Senior Services in establishing the partnership initiative; and

-- require that the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services adopt regulations to provide for the implementation by federally qualified health centers and local health departments that provide primary care of such procedures as the commissioner deems necessary

to effectuate the purposes of this bill (which parallels the requirements that this bill imposes upon the Commissioners of Education and Human Services with respect to local boards of education and licensed child care centers, respectively).

As reported by the committee, this bill is similar to Senate Bill No. 1757 (1R) (DiFrancesco/Allen), which is currently pending in the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2979

with Assembly committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 3, 1999

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2979 (1R) with committee amendments.

Assembly Bill No. 2979 (1R), as amended, establishes a partnership initiative between the Children's Health Care Coverage Program ("NJ KidCare") and various public and private entities to provide outreach to children who are potentially eligible for the program.

NJ KidCare is a program that provides children from low-income families who are under 19 years of age with subsidized private health insurance coverage, well-child and other preventive services, hospitalization, physician care, laboratory and x-ray services, prescription drugs, mental health services, and other benefits as determined by the Commissioner of Human Services. The program is designed in accordance with the provisions of the "State Children's Health Insurance Program" under Title XXI of the federal Social Security Act and is funded in substantial part with federal funds authorized under that title.

Under the bill, the entities designated for participation in the outreach initiative are: public elementary and secondary schools; licensed child care centers, registered family day care homes and unified child care agencies; federally qualified health centers; and local health departments that provide primary care. In implementing the outreach program through these partnership entities, the Commissioner of Human Services is to arrange for:

(1) Provision by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to each entity of informational materials about NJ KidCare, including the potential costs and benefits of the program for a participating household, as well as program application forms and postage-paid envelopes for submitting completed applications to the department. The partnership entity is to make these materials available to persons wishing to apply for enrollment in the program;

(2) Provision to each partnership entity of a notice, to be distributed at least annually to the households of children that the

entity serves, informing them of the availability of the informational materials, application forms and postage-paid envelopes. DHS would reimburse partnership entities for the costs of distributing the informational and application materials; and

(3) Payment of \$25 by DHS to any partnership entity for each household enrolled in NJ KidCare that was referred by that entity, and to which household the entity has provided assistance with enrollment in the program. The payment shall be made upon DHS's determination of the household's eligibility for such enrollment.

The bill directs the commissioners of Education and Health and Senior Services, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services, to adopt regulations that provide for the participation in the partnership initiative of the several partnership entities under their respective jurisdictions. In addition, the Commissioner of Education is directed to provide for the participation in the initiative of nonpublic schools through the offer of in-kind awards, in the form of educational resource materials that would be the property of the public schools, for each household enrolled in NJ KidCare that was referred by the nonpublic school.

As amended and reported by this committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1757 (2R) as reported by this committee.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill appropriates from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services the sum of \$75,000 to fund the purposes of the legislation.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The amendments revise the list of service entities that are to participate in the partnership initiative by adding registered family day care homes and unified child care agencies.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[Second Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 2979

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

208th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JULY 12, 1999

BILL SUMMARY

Assembly Bill No. 2979 (2R) of 1999 establishes a partnership initiative between the Children's Health Care Coverage Program (NJ KidCare) and public elementary and secondary schools, licensed child care centers, registered family day care home, unified child care agency, federally qualified health centers, and local health departments that provide primary care to provide outreach to children who are potentially eligible for NJ KidCare. Under this partnership, the Commissioner of Human Services (DHS) shall:

- Provide informational materials about NJ KidCare, including the potential costs and benefits of the program for a participating household, as well as program application forms and postage-paid envelopes to submit applications to DHS which public elementary and secondary schools, licensed child care centers, registered family day care home, unified child care agency, federally qualified health centers, and local health departments will make available to persons that wish to apply for the program;
- Provide public elementary and secondary schools, licensed child care centers, federally qualified health centers, registered family day care home, unified child care agency, and local health departments of a notice to be distributed at least annually to the households of children that attend such facilities of NJ KidCare, and provide application forms and postage paid envelopes; and
- Pay a school, child care center, health center registered family day care home, unified child care agency, or local health department \$25 for each household enrolled in NJ KidCare which was referred by that entity and which the entity assisted in enrolling in the program.

The bill appropriates \$75,000 to DHS to cover the costs of implementing this partnership initiative.

AGENCY COMMENTS

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

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES COMMENTS

Approximately \$136 million in State and federal funds are available in FY1999 AND FY2000 to pay for the costs of NJ KidCare, including the costs of administration. Such funds are sufficient to cover any additional costs associated with implementing a partnership initiative between NJ KidCare and public elementary and secondary schools, licensed child care centers, registered family day care home, unified child care agency, federally qualified health centers, and local health departments that provide primary care to provide outreach to children who are potentially eligible for the program and to provide \$25 for each household enrolled in NJ KidCare which was referred by that entity.

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

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

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Winnie Comfort
609-777-2600

RELEASE: July 26, 1999

**Governor Signs Bills Expanding NJ KidCare Program to Thousands More
Children;
Spends Day Touring Monmouth County**

New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman today signed legislation to expand the NJ KidCare program, making affordable health insurance available to tens of thousands additional New Jersey children.

"NJ KidCare was established to ensure that uninsured children get the medical care they need," said Gov. Whitman.

"Today we are expanding the NJ KidCare program to assist hard- working families who are struggling to pay for their own individual health insurance plan. We are ensuring that New Jersey families earning the maximum annual income allowed under federal law qualify for the program. And we are increasing our efforts to contact each and every family with children who could be eligible to benefit from NJ KidCare," the Governor said.

Gov. Whitman signed the expansive health care legislation at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft during a day-long tour of Monmouth County.

The legislation, a package of four bills, is intended to increase the number of children in NJ KidCare by expanding the eligibility requirements and by expanding public awareness of the program eligibility and benefits.

S-1659, sponsored by Senators Richard Codey (D-Essex) and Joseph Vitale (D-Middlesex) and Assembly Members Herbert Conaway (D-Burlington/Camden) and Charlotte Vandervalk (R-Bergen), removes the unintended obstacle of a six-month uninsured waiting period before becoming eligible for NJ KidCare for working families who are struggling to pay their own individual health insurance costs.

S-1758, sponsored by Senate President Donald DiFrancesco and Senator Jack Sinagra (R-Middlesex) and Assembly Members Tom Smith (R-Monmouth) and Steve Coredemus (R-Monmouth) increases the eligible income to include families making between 200 and 350 percent of the federal poverty level. Under these expanded guidelines, a family of four with an annual income of \$58,450 would qualify for NJ KidCare, up from the former limit of \$33,400.

In addition to the expansion of who is eligible for the NJ KidCare, the new legislation is intended to increase public awareness of the program.

Gov. Whitman said, "The expansion of NJ KidCare will be wasted if we don't increase awareness of the program. These bills specifically address the need for increased enrollment efforts."

S-1756, sponsored by Senate President Donald DiFrancesco and Senator Norman Robertson (R-Essex/Passaic) and Assembly Members John Kelly (R-Bergen/Essex/ Passaic) and Paul DiGaetano (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic) allows certain children who are eligible, but not yet enrolled in the program, to receive NJ KidCare benefits for needed medical services at acute-care hospitals, federally-qualified health centers and local health department facilities. The family must be evaluated in an interview and, if the family income appears to meet the qualification of up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, they are given "presumptive eligibility" for benefits. This must be followed up with a completed application and income evaluation to continue receiving NJ KidCare benefits.

S-1757, sponsored by Senate President Donald DiFrancesco and Senator Diane Allen (R-Burlington/Camden) and Assembly Members Samuel Thompson (R-Middlesex/ Monmouth) and Joseph Azzolina (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) establishes partnerships between NJ KidCare and schools, childcare organizations and health care entities to actively reach out to families to identify children eligible for NJ KidCare. The designated community organizations will receive \$25 for each household enrolled in the program. The bill provides \$75,000 to carry out the enrollment program.

The bill signing in Lincroft was one of many events the Governor attended around Monmouth County today. She began the day at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Holmdel to participate in the unveiling of a US Postal Service stamp commemorating Vietnam War Veterans.

During a stop at the Hall of Records in Freehold Borough, Gov. Whitman presented a ceremonial check for \$430 million to the Monmouth County Freeholders. The check represents a combination of school aid, municipal aid, various special appropriations, open space preservation funds and the first phase of the New Jersey SAVER property tax rebate program.

The Governor also visited the newly-constructed Aberdeen-Matawan train station in Aberdeen. The station serves 3,400 travelers daily and is one of five in the NJ TRANSIT North Jersey Coast Line slated to receive high-level platforms, accessible by stairs and ramps, to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The station project costs \$7.1 million, Ofunded by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority and Transportation Act Fund monies. It is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 1999.

And in Allenhurst, the Governor presented a \$350,000 ceremonial check to the Deal Lake Commission for the lake restoration project. The state funds, from the 1996 bond act approved by voters for the revitalization of New Jersey's ports and lakes, will be matched by in-kind services from the Deal Lake Commission, the Colonial Terrace Protective Assoc., and Ocean Twp.

The Governor concluded the day's events visiting with local residents on walking tours, first through historic Red Bank, home of author and critic Edmund Wilson and jazz great Count Basie, and then through the 95-year-old Keansburg Amusement Park.