

26:2-167.1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2004 **CHAPTER:** 137

NJSA: 26:2-167.1 ("Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative")

BILL NO: A655 (Substituted for S1444)

SPONSOR(S): Blee and others

DATE INTRODUCED: Pre-filed

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Health and Human Services
SENATE: Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** June 24, 2004

SENATE: June 17, 2004

DATE OF APPROVAL: September 1, 2004

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

[FINAL TEXT OF BILL](#) 2nd reprint enacted

A655

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:](#) (Begins on page 4 of original bill) [Yes](#)

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

SENATE: [Yes](#)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

S1444

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:](#) (Begins on page 2 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

SENATE: [Yes](#)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS:

No

HEARINGS:

No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

No

P.L. 2004, CHAPTER 137, *approved September 1, 2004*
Assembly, No. 655 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Office on Minority and
2 Multicultural Health¹[,] and¹ supplementing Title 26 of the
3 Revised Statutes ¹[and making an appropriation]¹.
4

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

8 1. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall establish
9 the "Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative" in the Office on Minority
10 and Multicultural Health. The commissioner shall require the office to
11 develop and implement a comprehensive, coordinated plan to reduce
12 health disparities between White and racial and ethnic minority
13 populations in the State in the following priority areas: ¹asthma;¹
14 infant mortality¹[,]¹ breast ¹[and]¹ cervical¹, prostate and
15 colorectal¹ cancer screening¹[,]¹ ²kidney disease;² HIV/AIDS¹[,]¹
16 hepatitis C;¹ sexually transmitted diseases [¹];¹ adult and child
17 immunizations¹[,]¹ cardiovascular disease¹[,]¹ diabetes¹[,]¹ and
18 accidental injuries and violence. As used in this act, "office" means the
19 New Jersey Office on Minority and Multicultural Health.
20

21 2. The office shall:

22 a. Establish measurable outcomes to achieve the goal of reducing
23 health disparities in the areas provided in section 1 of this act ¹[and to
24 determine the effectiveness of the grants funded pursuant to this act in
25 reducing those disparities. The development of measurable outcomes
26 shall be completed before any funds are distributed pursuant to this
27 act]¹.

28 b. Enhance current data tools to ensure a Statewide assessment of
29 the risk behaviors associated with the health disparity priority areas
30 provided in section 1 of this act. ¹[The Statewide assessment shall be
31 used to establish a baseline to measure the effect of activities funded
32 pursuant to this act.]¹ To the extent feasible, the office shall conduct
33 the assessment so that the results may be compared to national data.

34 ¹[c. Provide the necessary expertise to grant applicants to ensure
35 that submitted proposals are likely to be successful in reducing the
36 health disparities provided in section 1 of this act. The office shall

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:

¹ Assembly SHH committee amendments adopted February 9, 2004.

² Senate SHH committee amendments adopted May 13, 2004.

1 provide grant recipients with guidance and training on best or most
2 promising strategies to use to reduce those health disparities. The
3 office shall also assist grant recipients in the development of materials
4 and procedures to evaluate local community activities.]¹

5
6 ¹[3. a. The office shall develop criteria and procedures to allocate
7 grants pursuant to this act. In developing the criteria, the office shall
8 establish an administrative cost limit for grant recipients. At the time
9 a grant is awarded, the office shall provide a grant recipient with
10 information on the outcomes provided in section 2 of this act.

11 A grant recipient shall coordinate its activities to reduce health
12 disparities with other entities receiving funds pursuant to this act in the
13 grant recipient's service area.

14 b. Within the limits of funds appropriated for this purpose, the
15 office shall award grants to eligible applicants for local or regional
16 projects and initiatives directed at reducing health disparities in one or
17 both of the following priority areas:

18 (1) decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality rates;
19 and

20 (2) increasing adult and child immunization rates in non-White
21 racial and ethnic populations.

22 c. Within the limits of funds appropriated for this purpose, the
23 office shall award grants to eligible applicants for local or regional
24 projects and initiatives directed at decreasing racial and ethnic
25 disparities in morbidity and mortality rates in one or more of the
26 following priority areas:

27 (1) breast and cervical cancer;

28 (2) HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases;

29 (3) cardiovascular disease;

30 (4) diabetes; and

31 (5) accidental injuries or violence.

32 d. The office may award up to 20% of the available funds provided
33 for in subsections b. and c. of this section, respectively, as planning
34 grants. Planning grants shall be used to address areas such as
35 community assessment, coordination activities and development of
36 community-supported strategies.

37 e. Eligible applicants may include, but are not limited to, faith-
38 based organizations, social service organizations, community nonprofit
39 organizations, community clinics and local health departments. An
40 applicant must submit a proposal to the office. A proposal shall
41 specify the strategies to be implemented to address one or more of the
42 priority areas listed in subsections b. or c. of this section and shall be
43 targeted to achieve the outcomes provided in section 2 of this act.

44 f. The office shall give priority to applications that demonstrate
45 that the proposed project or initiative:

46 (1) is supported by the community to be served;

- 1 (2) is research-based or based on promising strategies;
2 (3) is designed to complement other related community activities;
3 (4) utilizes strategies that positively impact more than one priority
4 area;
5 (5) reflects racially and ethnically appropriate approaches; and
6 (6) will be implemented through or with community-based
7 organizations that reflect the race or ethnicity of the population to be
8 reached.]¹

9
10 ¹[4. The office shall coordinate the projects and initiatives funded
11 pursuant to this act with other efforts at the local, State or national
12 level to avoid duplication and promote complementary efforts.]¹

13
14 ¹[5. a. Using the outcomes established pursuant to section 2 of
15 this act, the office shall conduct an annual evaluation of the community
16 grant programs funded pursuant to this act. Grant recipients shall
17 cooperate with the office in the evaluation and shall provide the office
18 with the information needed to conduct the evaluation.

19 b. The office shall report annually, by September 1 of each year, to
20 the Legislature and the Governor on the local community projects
21 funded pursuant to this act. The report shall include information on
22 grant recipients, activities that were conducted using grant funds,
23 evaluation data and outcome measures, if available.]¹

24
25 ¹[6. Funds received pursuant to this act shall be used to develop
26 new programs or expand current programs that reduce health
27 disparities and shall not supplant current State or local expenditures.]¹

28
29 ¹[7.] 3.¹ The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall
30 adopt rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure
31 Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes
32 of this act.

33
34 ¹[8. There is appropriated \$3,600,000 from the General Fund to
35 the Department of Health and Senior Services to effectuate the
36 purposes of this act. Of this amount, \$1,400,000 shall be allocated for
37 competitive grants established pursuant to subsection b. of section 3
38 of this act, and \$2,200,000 shall be allocated for competitive grants
39 established pursuant to subsection c. of section 3 of this act.]¹

40
41 ¹[9.] 4.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

42
43
44
45 Establishes "Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative" in Office on
46 Minority and Multicultural Health.

ASSEMBLY, No. 655

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 211th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2004 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman FRANCIS J. BLEE

District 2 (Atlantic)

Assemblyman KIRK CONOVER

District 2 (Atlantic)

Co-Sponsored by:

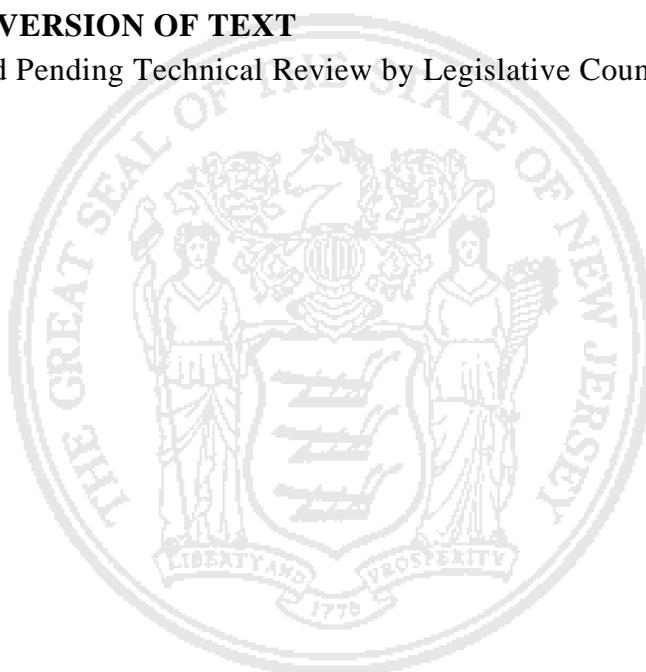
Assemblymen Munoz, Conaway and Steele

SYNOPSIS

Establishes "Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative" in Office on Minority and Multicultural Health; appropriates \$3.6 million.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Office on Minority and
2 Multicultural Health, supplementing Title 26 of the Revised
3 Statutes and making an appropriation.

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

7
8 1. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall establish
9 the "Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative" in the Office on Minority
10 and Multicultural Health. The commissioner shall require the office to
11 develop and implement a comprehensive, coordinated plan to reduce
12 health disparities between White and racial and ethnic minority
13 populations in the State in the following priority areas: infant
14 mortality, breast and cervical cancer screening, HIV/AIDS, sexually
15 transmitted diseases, adult and child immunizations, cardiovascular
16 disease, diabetes, and accidental injuries and violence. As used in
17 this act, "office" means the New Jersey Office on Minority and
18 Multicultural Health.

19
20 2. The office shall:

21 a. Establish measurable outcomes to achieve the goal of reducing
22 health disparities in the areas provided in section 1 of this act and to
23 determine the effectiveness of the grants funded pursuant to this act in
24 reducing those disparities. The development of measurable outcomes
25 shall be completed before any funds are distributed pursuant to this
26 act.

27 b. Enhance current data tools to ensure a Statewide assessment of
28 the risk behaviors associated with the health disparity priority areas
29 provided in section 1 of this act. The Statewide assessment shall be
30 used to establish a baseline to measure the effect of activities funded
31 pursuant to this act. To the extent feasible, the office shall conduct
32 the assessment so that the results may be compared to national data.

33 c. Provide the necessary expertise to grant applicants to ensure that
34 submitted proposals are likely to be successful in reducing the health
35 disparities provided in section 1 of this act. The office shall provide
36 grant recipients with guidance and training on best or most promising
37 strategies to use to reduce those health disparities. The office shall
38 also assist grant recipients in the development of materials and
39 procedures to evaluate local community activities.

40
41 3. a. The office shall develop criteria and procedures to allocate
42 grants pursuant to this act. In developing the criteria, the office shall
43 establish an administrative cost limit for grant recipients. At the time
44 a grant is awarded, the office shall provide a grant recipient with
45 information on the outcomes provided in section 2 of this act.

1 A grant recipient shall coordinate its activities to reduce health
2 disparities with other entities receiving funds pursuant to this act in the
3 grant recipient's service area.

4 b. Within the limits of funds appropriated for this purpose, the
5 office shall award grants to eligible applicants for local or regional
6 projects and initiatives directed at reducing health disparities in one or
7 both of the following priority areas:

8 (1) decreasing racial and ethnic disparities in infant mortality rates;
9 and

10 (2) increasing adult and child immunization rates in non-White
11 racial and ethnic populations.

12 c. Within the limits of funds appropriated for this purpose, the
13 office shall award grants to eligible applicants for local or regional
14 projects and initiatives directed at decreasing racial and ethnic
15 disparities in morbidity and mortality rates in one or more of the
16 following priority areas:

17 (1) breast and cervical cancer;

18 (2) HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases;

19 (3) cardiovascular disease;

20 (4) diabetes; and

21 (5) accidental injuries or violence.

22 d. The office may award up to 20% of the available funds provided
23 for in subsections b. and c. of this section, respectively, as planning
24 grants. Planning grants shall be used to address areas such as
25 community assessment, coordination activities and development of
26 community-supported strategies.

27 e. Eligible applicants may include, but are not limited to, faith-
28 based organizations, social service organizations, community nonprofit
29 organizations, community clinics and local health departments. An
30 applicant must submit a proposal to the office. A proposal shall
31 specify the strategies to be implemented to address one or more of the
32 priority areas listed in subsections b. or c. of this section and shall be
33 targeted to achieve the outcomes provided in section 2 of this act.

34 f. The office shall give priority to applications that demonstrate
35 that the proposed project or initiative:

36 (1) is supported by the community to be served;

37 (2) is research-based or based on promising strategies;

38 (3) is designed to complement other related community activities;

39 (4) utilizes strategies that positively impact more than one priority
40 area;

41 (5) reflects racially and ethnically appropriate approaches; and

42 (6) will be implemented through or with community-based
43 organizations that reflect the race or ethnicity of the population to be
44 reached.

1 4. The office shall coordinate the projects and initiatives funded
2 pursuant to this act with other efforts at the local, State or national
3 level to avoid duplication and promote complementary efforts.

4
5 5. a. Using the outcomes established pursuant to section 2 of this
6 act, the office shall conduct an annual evaluation of the community
7 grant programs funded pursuant to this act. Grant recipients shall
8 cooperate with the office in the evaluation and shall provide the office
9 with the information needed to conduct the evaluation.

10 b. The office shall report annually, by September 1 of each year, to
11 the Legislature and the Governor on the local community projects
12 funded pursuant to this act. The report shall include information on
13 grant recipients, activities that were conducted using grant funds,
14 evaluation data and outcome measures, if available.

15
16 6. Funds received pursuant to this act shall be used to develop new
17 programs or expand current programs that reduce health disparities
18 and shall not supplant current State or local expenditures.

19
20 7. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall adopt
21 rules and regulations, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"
22 P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to effectuate the purposes of
23 this act.

24
25 8. There is appropriated \$3,600,000 from the General Fund to the
26 Department of Health and Senior Services to effectuate the purposes
27 of this act. Of this amount, \$1,400,000 shall be allocated for
28 competitive grants established pursuant to subsection b. of section 3
29 of this act, and \$2,200,000 shall be allocated for competitive grants
30 established pursuant to subsection c. of section 3 of this act.

31
32 9. This act shall take effect immediately.

33
34
35 STATEMENT

36
37 This bill requires that the Commissioner of Health and Senior
38 Services establish the "Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative" in the
39 Office on Minority and Multicultural Health. The commissioner shall
40 require the office to develop and implement a comprehensive,
41 coordinated plan to reduce health disparities between White and racial
42 and ethnic minority populations in the State in the following priority
43 areas: infant mortality, breast and cervical cancer screening,
44 HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, adult and child
45 immunizations, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and accidental injuries
46 and violence. To that end, the bill provides for competitive grants to

1 eligible applicants for local or regional projects and initiatives directed
2 at reducing these health disparities.

3 The bill provides that the office shall:

4 * Establish measurable outcomes to achieve the goal of reducing
5 health disparities in the areas identified in the bill and to determine the
6 effectiveness of the grants funded pursuant to the bill in reducing those
7 disparities.

8 * Enhance current data tools to ensure a Statewide assessment of the
9 risk behaviors associated with the health disparity priority areas
10 identified in the bill. The Statewide assessment shall be used to
11 establish a baseline to measure the effect of activities funded pursuant
12 to this bill. To the extent feasible, the office shall conduct the
13 assessment so that the results may be compared to national data.

14 * Provide the necessary expertise to grant applicants to ensure that
15 submitted proposals are likely to be successful in reducing the health
16 disparities identified in the bill. The office shall provide grant
17 recipients with guidance and training on best or most promising
18 strategies to use to reduce those health disparities. The office shall
19 also assist grant recipients in the development of materials and
20 procedures to evaluate local community activities.

21 The bill appropriates \$3,600,000 from the General Fund to the
22 Department of Health and Senior Services to be allocated for
23 competitive grants to eligible applicants for local or regional projects
24 and initiatives directed at reducing the health disparities identified in
25 the bill. It is intended that the amount appropriated in this bill shall be
26 appropriated annually hereafter.

ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 655

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 9, 2004

The Assembly Health and Human Services Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 655.

As amended by the committee, this bill requires that the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services establish the "Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative" in the New Jersey Office on Minority and Multicultural Health (OMMH). The commissioner is to require OMMH to develop and implement a comprehensive, coordinated plan to reduce health disparities between White and racial and ethnic minority populations in the State in the following priority areas: asthma; infant mortality; breast, cervical, prostate and colorectal cancer screening; HIV/AIDS; hepatitis C; sexually transmitted diseases; adult and child immunizations; cardiovascular disease; diabetes; and accidental injuries and violence.

The bill directs OMMH to:

- * establish measurable outcomes to achieve the goal of reducing health disparities in the areas identified in the bill; and
- * enhance current data tools to ensure a Statewide assessment of the risk behaviors associated with the health disparity priority areas identified in the bill, with the Statewide assessment to be conducted, to the extent feasible, so that the results may be compared to national data.

It is hoped that the allocation of any available funding to implement the health disparity reduction plan established under this bill will receive priority consideration from the Department of Health and Senior Services as soon as may be practicable.

This bill was prefiled for introduction in the 2004-2005 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments to the bill:

- add asthma, prostate and colorectal cancer screening, and hepatitis C to the list of health disparity priority areas to be included in the comprehensive, coordinated plan to reduce health disparities; and

-- delete the provision for competitive grants to eligible applicants for local or regional projects and initiatives directed at reducing those health disparities, as well as the \$3.6 million appropriation from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Senior Services to be allocated for the grants.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 655

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 13, 2004

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 655 (1R).

This bill requires that the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services establish the "Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative" in the New Jersey Office on Minority and Multicultural Health (OMMH). The commissioner is to require OMMH to develop and implement a comprehensive, coordinated plan to reduce health disparities between White and racial and ethnic minority populations in the State in the following priority areas: asthma; infant mortality; breast, cervical, prostate and colorectal cancer screening; kidney disease; HIV/AIDS; hepatitis C; sexually transmitted diseases; adult and child immunizations; cardiovascular disease; diabetes; and accidental injuries and violence.

The bill directs OMMH to:

--establish measurable outcomes to achieve the goal of reducing health disparities in the areas identified in the bill; and

--enhance current data tools to ensure a Statewide assessment of the risk behaviors associated with the health disparity priority areas identified in the bill, with the Statewide assessment to be conducted, to the extent feasible, so that the results may be compared to national data.

The committee amended the bill to add kidney disease to the list of priority areas that should be addressed in the OMMH plan to reduce health disparities.

As amended by committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1444 SCA, which the committee also reported favorably on this date.

SENATE, No. 1444

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
211th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 29, 2004

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator NIA H. GILL

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes "Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative" in Office on Minority and Multicultural Health.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning the New Jersey Office on Minority and
2 Multicultural Health and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised
3 Statutes .

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

7
8 1. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall establish
9 the "Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative" in the Office on Minority
10 and Multicultural Health. The commissioner shall require the office to
11 develop and implement a comprehensive, coordinated plan to reduce
12 health disparities between White and racial and ethnic minority
13 populations in the State in the following priority areas: asthma; infant
14 mortality; breast, cervical, prostate and colorectal cancer screening;
15 HIV/AIDS; hepatitis C; sexually transmitted diseases; adult and child
16 immunizations; cardiovascular disease; diabetes; and accidental injuries
17 and violence. As used in this act, "office" means the New Jersey
18 Office on Minority and Multicultural Health.

19
20 2. The office shall:

21 a. Establish measurable outcomes to achieve the goal of reducing
22 health disparities in the areas provided in section 1 of this act.

23 b. Enhance current data tools to ensure a Statewide assessment of
24 the risk behaviors associated with the health disparity priority areas
25 provided in section 1 of this act. To the extent feasible, the office
26 shall conduct the assessment so that the results may be compared to
27 national data.

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

33
34 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

35
36
37 STATEMENT

38
39 This bill requires the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services
40 to establish the "Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative" in the New
41 Jersey Office on Minority and Multicultural Health (OMMH). The
42 commissioner is to require OMMH to develop and implement a
43 comprehensive, coordinated plan to reduce health disparities between
44 White and racial and ethnic minority populations in the State in the
45 following priority areas: asthma; infant mortality; breast, cervical,
46 prostate and colorectal cancer screening; HIV/AIDS; hepatitis C;

1 sexually transmitted diseases; adult and child immunizations;
2 cardiovascular disease; diabetes; and accidental injuries and violence.

3 The bill directs OMMH to:

4 -- establish measurable outcomes to achieve the goal of reducing
5 health disparities in the areas identified in the bill; and

6 -- enhance current data tools to ensure a Statewide assessment of
7 the risk behaviors associated with the health disparity priority areas
8 identified in the bill, with the Statewide assessment to be conducted,
9 to the extent feasible, so that the results may be compared to national
10 data.

11 It is hoped that the allocation of any available funding to implement
12 the health disparity reduction plan established under this bill will
13 receive priority consideration from the Department of Health and
14 Senior Services as soon as may be practicable.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1444

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 13, 2004

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1444.

This bill requires the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services to establish the "Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative" in the New Jersey Office on Minority and Multicultural Health (OMMH). The commissioner is to require OMMH to develop and implement a comprehensive, coordinated plan to reduce health disparities between White and racial and ethnic minority populations in the State in the following priority areas: asthma; infant mortality; breast, cervical, prostate and colorectal cancer screening; kidney disease; HIV/AIDS; hepatitis C; sexually transmitted diseases; adult and child immunizations; cardiovascular disease; diabetes; and accidental injuries and violence.

The bill directs OMMH to:

--establish measurable outcomes to achieve the goal of reducing health disparities in the areas identified in the bill; and

--enhance current data tools to ensure a Statewide assessment of the risk behaviors associated with the health disparity priority areas identified in the bill, with the Statewide assessment to be conducted, to the extent feasible, so that the results may be compared to national data.

The committee amended the bill to add kidney disease to the list of priority areas that should be addressed in the OMMH plan to reduce health disparities.

As amended by committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 655 (1R) SCA, which the committee also reported favorably on this date.