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LAW/RWH

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, No. 184

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
213th LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED JANUARY 24, 2008

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY R. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris)

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)

Assemblyman UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

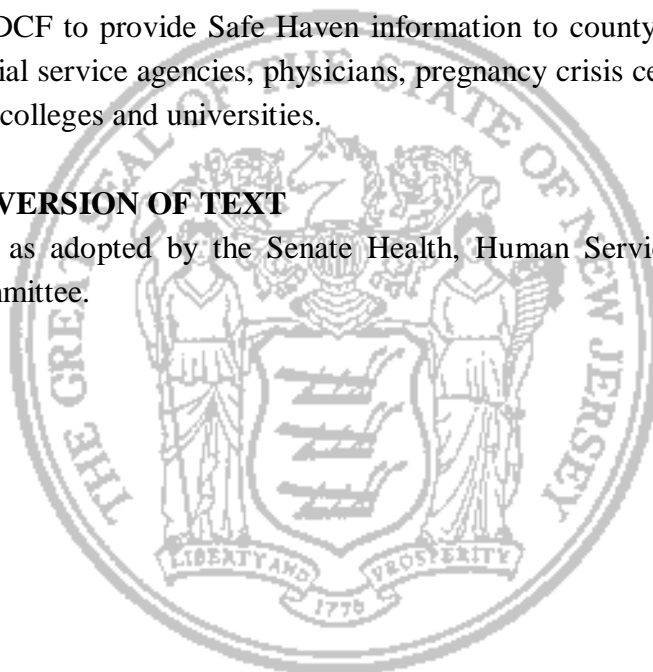
Senator Oroho and Assemblyman Diegnan

SYNOPSIS

Requires DCF to provide Safe Haven information to county and municipal agencies, social service agencies, physicians, pregnancy crisis centers, adoption agencies and colleges and universities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/8/2010)

1 **AN ACT** concerning public information about the “New Jersey Safe
2 Haven Infant Protection Act” and amending P.L.2000, c.58
3 (C.30:4C-15.9).
4

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

8 1. Section 6 of P.L.2000, c.58 (C.30:4C-15.9) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 6. a. The Commissioner of Children and Families, in
11 consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services,
12 shall establish an educational and public information program to
13 promote safe placement alternatives for newborn infants, the
14 confidentiality offered to birth parents and information regarding
15 adoption procedures. This campaign shall include the establishment
16 of a 24-hour, toll free hotline to assist in making information about
17 the safe haven procedures established by P.L.2000, c.58 (C.30:4C-
18 15.5 et al.) as widely available as possible.

19 b. The Department of Children and Families shall provide to
20 licensed general hospitals in this State and State, county or
21 municipal police stations information about relevant social service
22 agencies which may be made available to any person voluntarily
23 delivering a child as provided in section 4 of P.L.2000, c.58
24 (C.30:4C-15.7).

25 c. The Department of Children and Families shall notify
26 relevant county and municipal government agencies, agencies that
27 deliver social services administered by the Departments of Children
28 and Families, Human Services, and Health and Senior Services,
29 physicians, pregnancy crisis centers, adoption agencies, and
30 colleges and universities about the availability of information
31 concerning the “New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act,”
32 including the pamphlets, posters, and other materials available on
33 the department’s Internet site.
34 (cf: P.L.2006, c.47, s.125)
35

36 2. This act shall take effect on the 60th day after enactment.

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.

SENATE, No. 184

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2008 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator ANTHONY R. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris)

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Expands list of Safe Haven sites, provides drop-off location information be made available by 2-1-1 call centers; appropriates \$95,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 AN ACT concerning the protection of newborn infants, amending
2 P.L.1991, c.275, amending and supplementing P.L.2000, c.58,
3 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. Section 7 of P.L.1991, c.275 (C.30:4C-15.1) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 7. a. The division shall initiate a petition to terminate parental
11 rights on the grounds of the “best interests of the child” pursuant to
12 subsection (c) of section 15 of P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-15) if the
13 following standards are met:

14 (1) The child’s safety, health or development has been or will
15 continue to be endangered by the parental relationship;

16 (2) The parent is unwilling or unable to eliminate the harm
17 facing the child or is unable or unwilling to provide a safe and
18 stable home for the child and the delay of permanent placement will
19 add to the harm. Such harm may include evidence that separating
20 the child from his resource family parents would cause serious and
21 enduring emotional or psychological harm to the child;

22 (3) The division has made reasonable efforts to provide services
23 to help the parent correct the circumstances which led to the child’s
24 placement outside the home and the court has considered
25 alternatives to termination of parental rights; and

26 (4) Termination of parental rights will not do more harm than
27 good.

28 b. The division shall initiate a petition to terminate parental
29 rights on the ground that the “parent has abandoned the child”
30 pursuant to subsection (e) of section 15 of P.L.1951, c.138
31 (C.30:4C-15) if the following standards are met:

32 (1) a court finds that for a period of six or more months:

33 (a) the parent, although able to have contact, has had no contact
34 with the child, the child’s resource family parent or the division;
35 and

36 (b) the parent’s whereabouts are unknown, notwithstanding the
37 division’s reasonable efforts to locate the parent; or

38 (2) where the identities of the parents are unknown and the
39 division has exhausted all reasonable methods of attempting
40 identification, the division may immediately file for termination of
41 parental rights upon the completion of the law enforcement
42 investigation; or

43 (3) where the parent voluntarily delivered the child to and left
44 the child at, or voluntarily arranged for another person to deliver the
45 child to and leave the child at a State, county or municipal police

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 station, a fire station of a municipal, county, fire district or
2 volunteer fire department, the premises of a public or private
3 ambulance, first aid or rescue squad, or [at] an emergency
4 department of a licensed general hospital in this State when the
5 child is or appears to be no more than 30 days old, without
6 expressing an intent to return for the child, as provided in section 4
7 of P.L.2000, c.58 (C.30:4C-15.7), the division shall file for
8 termination of parental rights no later than 21 days after the day the
9 division assumed care, custody and control of the child.

10 c. As used in this section and in section 15 of P.L.1951, c.138
11 (C.30:4C-15) “reasonable efforts” mean attempts by an agency
12 authorized by the division to assist the parents in remedying the
13 circumstances and conditions that led to the placement of the child
14 and in reinforcing the family structure, including, but not limited to:

15 (1) consultation and cooperation with the parent in developing a
16 plan for appropriate services;

17 (2) providing services that have been agreed upon, to the family,
18 in order to further the goal of family reunification;

19 (3) informing the parent at appropriate intervals of the child’s
20 progress, development and health; and

21 (4) facilitating appropriate visitation.

22 d. The division shall not be required to provide “reasonable
23 efforts” as defined in subsection c. of this section prior to filing a
24 petition for the termination of parental rights if an exception to the
25 requirement to provide reasonable efforts to reunify the family has
26 been established pursuant to section 25 of P.L.1999, c.53 (C.30:4C-
27 11.3).

28 (cf: P.L.2004, c.130, s.56)

29

30 2. Section 4 of P.L.2000, c.58 (C.30:4C-15.7) is amended to
31 read as follows:

32 4. a. If a person voluntarily delivers a child who is or appears
33 to be no more than 30 days old to, and leaves the child at:

34 (1) a State, county or municipal police station and does not
35 express an intent to return for the child, a State, county or municipal
36 police officer shall take the child to the emergency department of a
37 licensed general hospital in this State, and the hospital shall proceed
38 as specified in subsection b. of this section;

39 (2) the fire station of a municipal, county, fire district or
40 volunteer fire department that is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days
41 a week and does not express an intent to return for the child, a fire
42 fighter shall take the child to the emergency department of a
43 licensed general hospital in this State, and the hospital shall proceed
44 as specified in subsection b. of this section; or

45 (3) the premises of a public or private ambulance, first aid or
46 rescue squad that is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and
47 does not express an intent to return for the child, an emergency

1 medical technician, or another designated squad member if an
2 emergency medical technician is not available, shall take the child
3 to the emergency department of a licensed general hospital in this
4 State, and the hospital shall proceed as specified in subsection b. of
5 this section.

6 b. If a person voluntarily delivers a child who is or appears to
7 be no more than 30 days old to, and leaves the child at an
8 emergency department of a licensed general hospital in this State
9 and does not express an intent to return for the child, or, if a State,
10 county or municipal police officer, a fire fighter, or a member of a
11 licensed public or private ambulance, first aid or rescue squad
12 brings a child to a licensed general hospital under the circumstances
13 set forth in subsection a. of this section, the hospital shall:

14 (1) take possession of the child without a court order;

15 (2) take any action or provide any treatment necessary to protect
16 the child's physical health and safety; and

17 (3) no later than the first business day after taking possession of
18 the child, notify the Division of Youth and Family Services in the
19 Department of Children and Families that the hospital has taken
20 possession of the child.

21 c. The Division of Youth and Family Services shall assume the
22 care, custody and control of the child immediately upon receipt of
23 notice from a licensed general hospital pursuant to paragraph (3) of
24 subsection b. of this section. The division shall commence a
25 thorough search of all listings of missing children to ensure that the
26 relinquished child has not been reported missing.

27 d. A child for whom the Division of Youth and Family
28 Services assumes care, custody and control pursuant to subsection
29 c. of this section shall be treated as a child taken into possession
30 without a court order.

31 e. It shall be an affirmative defense to prosecution for
32 abandonment of a child that the parent voluntarily delivered the
33 child to and left the child at, or voluntarily arranged for another
34 person to deliver the child to and leave the child at, a State, county
35 or municipal police station, a fire department, or an ambulance, first
36 aid or rescue squad as provided in subsection a. of this section or
37 the emergency department of a licensed general hospital in this
38 State as provided in subsection b. of this section. Nothing in this
39 subsection shall be construed to create a defense to any prosecution
40 arising from any conduct other than the act of delivering the child
41 as described herein, and this subsection specifically shall not
42 constitute a defense to any prosecution arising from an act of abuse
43 or neglect committed prior to the delivery of the child to a State,
44 county or municipal police station, a fire department, or an
45 ambulance, first aid or rescue squad as provided in subsection a. of
46 this section or the emergency department of a licensed general
47 hospital in this State as provided in subsection b. of this section.

1 f. (1) A State, county or municipal police officer and the
2 governmental jurisdiction employing that officer;

3 (2) a fire fighter and the fire department, and governmental
4 jurisdiction as applicable, employing or utilizing the services of that
5 person;

6 (3) a member of an ambulance, first aid or rescue squad and the
7 squad, and governmental jurisdiction as applicable, employing or
8 utilizing the services of that person; or

9 (4) an employee of an emergency department of a licensed
10 general hospital in this State and the hospital employing that
11 person,

12 shall incur no civil or criminal liability for any good faith acts or
13 omissions performed pursuant to this section.

14 g. Any person who voluntarily delivers a child who is or
15 appears to be no more than 30 days old to a licensed general
16 hospital [or a], police station, fire department, or ambulance, first
17 aid or rescue squad in accordance with this section shall not be
18 required to disclose that person's name or other identifying
19 information or that of the child or the child's parent, if different
20 from the person who delivers the child to the hospital [or], police
21 station, fire department, or ambulance, first aid or rescue squad, or
22 provide background or medical information about the child, but
23 may voluntarily do so.

24 (cf: P.L.2006, c.47, s.124)

25

26 3. (New section) A fire station, the premises of an ambulance,
27 first aid or rescue squad that is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a
28 week that seeks to be designated as a safe haven location shall
29 register with the Department of Children and Families, and shall
30 provide the department with name, address, telephone number, and
31 such other information as the Commissioner of Children and
32 Families may require.

33

34 4. Section 6 of P.L.2000, c.58 (C.30:4C-15.9) is amended to
35 read as follows:

36 6. a. The Commissioner of Children and Families, in
37 consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services,
38 shall establish an educational and public information program to
39 promote safe placement alternatives for newborn infants, the
40 confidentiality offered to birth parents and information regarding
41 adoption procedures. This campaign shall include the establishment
42 of a 24-hour, toll free hotline to assist in making information about
43 the safe haven procedures established by P.L.2000, c.58 (C.30:4C-
44 15.5 et al.) as widely available as possible, and the inclusion of safe
45 haven procedures and locations in the information available through
46 New Jersey's 2-1-1 call centers.

1 b. The Department of Children and Families shall provide to
2 licensed general hospitals in this State and State, county or
3 municipal police stations information about relevant social service
4 agencies which may be made available to any person voluntarily
5 delivering a child as provided in section 4 of P.L.2000, c.58
6 (C.30:4C-15.7).
7 (cf: P.L.2006, c.47, s.125)

8
9 5. There is appropriated to the Department of Children and
10 Families from the General Fund the sum of \$95,000 to effectuate
11 the provision concerning safe haven information provided by 2-1-1
12 call centers in section 6 of P.L.2000, c.58 (C.30:4C-15.9).

13
14 6. This act shall take effect 30 days after enactment.

15
16

17 STATEMENT

18
19 This bill expands the list of sites at which newborn infants may
20 be left safely and anonymously by a parent or another person acting
21 on the parent's behalf, in accordance with the "New Jersey Safe
22 Haven Infant Protection Act." Currently, safe haven sites are
23 limited to emergency departments of licensed general hospitals and
24 State, county and municipal police stations. This bill adds fire
25 stations and the premises of ambulance, first aid and rescue squads
26 that are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week to be designated
27 as safe haven locations once they register with the Department of
28 Children and Families, by providing the department with its name,
29 address, and telephone number.

30 In addition, this bill provides that safe haven information,
31 currently available through the toll-free hotline run by the Division
32 of Youth and Family Services in the Division of Children and
33 Families, also is to be made available through 2-1-1 call centers and
34 appropriates \$95,000 for that purpose. 2-1-1 is an easy-to-
35 remember telephone number which provides individuals with social
36 services information.

37 The hope is that by increasing the number of safe haven sites and
38 ways to obtain safe haven information, more vulnerable lives will
39 be saved.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, No. 184

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 24, 2008

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably a Senate Committee Substitute for Senate No. 184.

This committee substitute amends the “New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act” to require the Department of Children and Families to notify relevant county and municipal government agencies, agencies that deliver social services administered by the Departments of Children and Families, Human Services, and Health and Senior Services, physicians, pregnancy crisis centers, adoption agencies, and colleges and universities about the availability of information concerning the “New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act,” including the pamphlets, posters, and other materials available on the department’s Internet site.

This amendment is based on the recommendation of the Safe Haven Awareness Promotion Task Force to develop a broader network of partners in raising public awareness about the Safe Haven program.

ASSEMBLY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE, No. 184

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 4, 2010

The Assembly Human Services Committee reports favorably the Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 184.

This committee substitute amends the “New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act” to require the Department of Children and Families to notify relevant county and municipal government agencies, agencies that deliver social services administered by the Departments of Children and Families, Human Services, and Health and Senior Services, physicians, pregnancy crisis centers, adoption agencies, and colleges and universities about the availability of information concerning the “New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act,” including the pamphlets, posters, and other materials available on the department’s Internet site.

The provisions of this substitute are based on the recommendation of the Safe Haven Awareness Promotion Task Force to develop a broader network of partners in raising public awareness about the Safe Haven program.

As reported by the committee, this committee substitute is identical to the Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 1897 (Chivukula), which the committee also reported favorably on this date.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1897

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 28, 2008

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA
District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Diegnan

SYNOPSIS

Expands list of Safe Haven sites, provides drop-off location information be made available by 2-1-1 call centers; appropriates \$95,000.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/5/2010)

A1897 CHIVUKULA

2

1 AN ACT concerning the protection of newborn infants, amending
2 P.L.1991, c.275, amending and supplementing P.L.2000, c.58,
3 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. Section 7 of P.L.1991, c.275 (C.30:4C-15.1) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 7. a. The division shall initiate a petition to terminate parental
11 rights on the grounds of the “best interests of the child” pursuant to
12 subsection (c) of section 15 of P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-15) if the
13 following standards are met:

14 (1) The child’s safety, health or development has been or will
15 continue to be endangered by the parental relationship;

16 (2) The parent is unwilling or unable to eliminate the harm
17 facing the child or is unable or unwilling to provide a safe and
18 stable home for the child and the delay of permanent placement will
19 add to the harm. Such harm may include evidence that separating
20 the child from his resource family parents would cause serious and
21 enduring emotional or psychological harm to the child;

22 (3) The division has made reasonable efforts to provide services
23 to help the parent correct the circumstances which led to the child’s
24 placement outside the home and the court has considered
25 alternatives to termination of parental rights; and

26 (4) Termination of parental rights will not do more harm than
27 good.

28 b. The division shall initiate a petition to terminate parental
29 rights on the ground that the “parent has abandoned the child”
30 pursuant to subsection (e) of section 15 of P.L.1951, c.138
31 (C.30:4C-15) if the following standards are met:

32 (1) a court finds that for a period of six or more months:

33 (a) the parent, although able to have contact, has had no contact
34 with the child, the child’s resource family parent or the division;
35 and

36 (b) the parent’s whereabouts are unknown, notwithstanding the
37 division’s reasonable efforts to locate the parent; or

38 (2) where the identities of the parents are unknown and the
39 division has exhausted all reasonable methods of attempting
40 identification, the division may immediately file for termination of
41 parental rights upon the completion of the law enforcement
42 investigation; or

43 (3) where the parent voluntarily delivered the child to and left
44 the child at, or voluntarily arranged for another person to deliver the
45 child to and leave the child at a State, county or municipal police

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 station, a fire station of a municipal, county, fire district or
2 volunteer fire department, the premises of a public or private
3 ambulance, first aid or rescue squad, or [at] an emergency
4 department of a licensed general hospital in this State when the
5 child is or appears to be no more than 30 days old, without
6 expressing an intent to return for the child, as provided in section 4
7 of P.L.2000, c.58 (C.30:4C-15.7), the division shall file for
8 termination of parental rights no later than 21 days after the day the
9 division assumed care, custody and control of the child.

10 c. As used in this section and in section 15 of P.L.1951, c.138
11 (C.30:4C-15) “reasonable efforts” mean attempts by an agency
12 authorized by the division to assist the parents in remedying the
13 circumstances and conditions that led to the placement of the child
14 and in reinforcing the family structure, including, but not limited to:

15 (1) consultation and cooperation with the parent in developing a
16 plan for appropriate services;

17 (2) providing services that have been agreed upon, to the family,
18 in order to further the goal of family reunification;

19 (3) informing the parent at appropriate intervals of the child’s
20 progress, development and health; and

21 (4) facilitating appropriate visitation.

22 d. The division shall not be required to provide “reasonable
23 efforts” as defined in subsection c. of this section prior to filing a
24 petition for the termination of parental rights if an exception to the
25 requirement to provide reasonable efforts to reunify the family has
26 been established pursuant to section 25 of P.L.1999, c.53 (C.30:4C-
27 11.3).

28 (cf: P.L.2004, c.130, s.56)

29
30 2. Section 4 of P.L.2000, c.58 (C.30:4C-15.7) is amended to
31 read as follows:

32 4. a. If a person voluntarily delivers a child who is or appears
33 to be no more than 30 days old to, and leaves the child at:

34 (1) a State, county or municipal police station and does not
35 express an intent to return for the child, a State, county or municipal
36 police officer shall take the child to the emergency department of a
37 licensed general hospital in this State, and the hospital shall proceed
38 as specified in subsection b. of this section;

39 (2) the fire station of a municipal, county, fire district or
40 volunteer fire department that is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days
41 a week and does not express an intent to return for the child, a fire
42 fighter shall take the child to the emergency department of a
43 licensed general hospital in this State, and the hospital shall proceed
44 as specified in subsection b. of this section; or

45 (3) the premises of a public or private ambulance, first aid or
46 rescue squad that is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week and
47 does not express an intent to return for the child, an emergency
48 medical technician, or another designated squad member if an

1 emergency medical technician is not available, shall take the child
2 to the emergency department of a licensed general hospital in this
3 State, and the hospital shall proceed as specified in subsection b. of
4 this section.

5 b. If a person voluntarily delivers a child who is or appears to
6 be no more than 30 days old to, and leaves the child at an
7 emergency department of a licensed general hospital in this State
8 and does not express an intent to return for the child, or, if a State,
9 county or municipal police officer, a fire fighter, or a member of a
10 licensed public or private ambulance, first aid or rescue squad
11 brings a child to a licensed general hospital under the circumstances
12 set forth in subsection a. of this section, the hospital shall:

13 (1) take possession of the child without a court order;

14 (2) take any action or provide any treatment necessary to protect
15 the child's physical health and safety; and

16 (3) no later than the first business day after taking possession of
17 the child, notify the Division of Youth and Family Services in the
18 Department of Children and Families that the hospital has taken
19 possession of the child.

20 c. The Division of Youth and Family Services shall assume the
21 care, custody and control of the child immediately upon receipt of
22 notice from a licensed general hospital pursuant to paragraph (3) of
23 subsection b. of this section. The division shall commence a
24 thorough search of all listings of missing children to ensure that the
25 relinquished child has not been reported missing.

26 d. A child for whom the Division of Youth and Family
27 Services assumes care, custody and control pursuant to subsection
28 c. of this section shall be treated as a child taken into possession
29 without a court order.

30 e. It shall be an affirmative defense to prosecution for
31 abandonment of a child that the parent voluntarily delivered the
32 child to and left the child at, or voluntarily arranged for another
33 person to deliver the child to and leave the child at, a State, county
34 or municipal police station, a fire department, or an ambulance, first
35 aid or rescue squad as provided in subsection a. of this section or
36 the emergency department of a licensed general hospital in this
37 State as provided in subsection b. of this section. Nothing in this
38 subsection shall be construed to create a defense to any prosecution
39 arising from any conduct other than the act of delivering the child
40 as described herein, and this subsection specifically shall not
41 constitute a defense to any prosecution arising from an act of abuse
42 or neglect committed prior to the delivery of the child to a State,
43 county or municipal police station, a fire department, or an
44 ambulance, first aid or rescue squad as provided in subsection a. of
45 this section or the emergency department of a licensed general
46 hospital in this State as provided in subsection b. of this section.

47 f. (1) A State, county or municipal police officer and the
48 governmental jurisdiction employing that officer;

1 (2) a fire fighter and the fire department, and governmental
2 jurisdiction as applicable, employing or utilizing the services of that
3 person;

4 (3) a member of an ambulance, first aid or rescue squad and the
5 squad, and governmental jurisdiction as applicable, employing or
6 utilizing the services of that person; or

7 (4) an employee of an emergency department of a licensed
8 general hospital in this State and the hospital employing that
9 person,

10 shall incur no civil or criminal liability for any good faith acts or
11 omissions performed pursuant to this section.

12 g. Any person who voluntarily delivers a child who is or
13 appears to be no more than 30 days old to a licensed general
14 hospital [or a], police station, fire department, or ambulance, first
15 aid or rescue squad in accordance with this section shall not be
16 required to disclose that person's name or other identifying
17 information or that of the child or the child's parent, if different
18 from the person who delivers the child to the hospital [or], police
19 station, fire department, or ambulance, first aid or rescue squad, or
20 provide background or medical information about the child, but
21 may voluntarily do so.

22 (cf: P.L.2006, c.47, s.124)

23

24 3. (New section) A fire station, the premises of an ambulance,
25 first aid or rescue squad that is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a
26 week that seeks to be designated as a safe haven location shall
27 register with the Department of Children and Families, and shall
28 provide the department with name, address, telephone number, and
29 such other information as the Commissioner of Children and
30 Families may require.

31

32 4. Section 6 of P.L.2000, c.58 (C.30:4C-15.9) is amended to
33 read as follows:

34 6. a. The Commissioner of Children and Families, in
35 consultation with the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services,
36 shall establish an educational and public information program to
37 promote safe placement alternatives for newborn infants, the
38 confidentiality offered to birth parents and information regarding
39 adoption procedures. This campaign shall include the establishment
40 of a 24-hour, toll free hotline to assist in making information about
41 the safe haven procedures established by P.L.2000, c.58 (C.30:4C-
42 15.5 et al.) as widely available as possible, and the inclusion of safe
43 haven procedures and locations in the information available through
44 New Jersey's 2-1-1 call centers.

45 b. The Department of Children and Families shall provide to
46 licensed general hospitals in this State and State, county or
47 municipal police stations information about relevant social service
48 agencies which may be made available to any person voluntarily

A1897 CHIVUKULA

1 delivering a child as provided in section 4 of P.L.2000, c.58
2 (C.30:4C-15.7).

3 (cf: P.L.2006, c.47, s.125)

4

5 5. There is appropriated to the Department of Children and
6 Families from the General Fund the sum of \$95,000 to effectuate
7 the provision concerning safe haven information provided by 2-1-1
8 call centers in section 6 of P.L.2000, c.58 (C.30:4C-15.9).

9

10 6. This act shall take effect 30 days after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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15 This bill expands the list of sites at which newborn infants may
16 be left safely and anonymously by a parent or another person acting
17 on the parent's behalf, in accordance with the "New Jersey Safe
18 Haven Infant Protection Act." Currently, safe haven sites are
19 limited to emergency departments of licensed general hospitals and
20 State, county and municipal police stations. This bill adds fire
21 stations and the premises of ambulance, first aid and rescue squads
22 that are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week to be designated
23 as safe haven locations once they register with the Department of
24 Children and Families, by providing the department with its name,
25 address, and telephone number.

26 In addition, this bill provides that safe haven information,
27 currently available through the toll-free hotline run by the Division
28 of Youth and Family Services in the Division of Children and
29 Families, also is to be made available through 2-1-1 call centers and
30 appropriates \$95,000 for that purpose. 2-1-1 is an easy-to-
31 remember telephone number which provides individuals with social
32 services information.

33 The hope is that by increasing the number of safe haven sites and
34 ways to obtain safe haven information, more vulnerable lives will
35 be saved.

ASSEMBLY HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
ASSEMBLY, No. 1897

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 4, 2010

The Assembly Human Services Committee reports favorably an Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 1897.

This committee substitute amends the “New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act” to require the Department of Children and Families to notify relevant county and municipal government agencies, agencies that deliver social services administered by the Departments of Children and Families, Human Services, and Health and Senior Services, physicians, pregnancy crisis centers, adoption agencies, and colleges and universities about the availability of information concerning the “New Jersey Safe Haven Infant Protection Act,” including the pamphlets, posters, and other materials available on the department’s Internet site.

The provisions of this substitute are based on the recommendation of the Safe Haven Awareness Promotion Task Force to develop a broader network of partners in raising public awareness about the Safe Haven program.

As reported by the committee, this committee substitute is identical to the Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 184 (Bucco/Sweeney), which the committee also reported favorably on this date.