

26:2-119 to 26:2-123

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

(Poison control and drug information--
established in Department of Health)

NJSA 26:2-119 to 26:2-123

LAWS 1982

CHAPTER 177

Bill No. A443

Sponsor(s) McEnroe

Date Introduced Pre-filed

Committee: Assembly Corrections, Health and Human Services

Senate Institutions, Health and Welfare

Amended during passage

Yes

~~No~~ Amendments during passage
denoted by asterisks

Date of Passage: Assembly May 13, 1982

Senate Sept. 23, 1982

Date of approval Nov. 12, 1982

Following statements are attached if available:

Sponsor statement

Yes

~~No~~

Committee Statement: Assembly

Yes

~~No~~

Senate

Yes

~~No~~ (not attached since identical
to sponsor's statement)

Fiscal Note

Yes

~~No~~

Veto Message

Yes

~~No~~

Message on signing

Yes

~~No~~

Following were printed:

Reports

~~Yes~~

~~No~~

Hearings

~~Yes~~

~~No~~

6/22/81

[OFFICIAL COPY REPRINT]
ASSEMBLY, No. 443

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1982 SESSION

By Assemblyman McENROE

AN ACT concerning the establishment of a poison control and drug information program by the Commissioner of the Department of Health.

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

1 1. The Legislature finds that every year there are a substantial
2 number of accidental poisonings especially among young children
3 and that the possibility of serious injury or death which results
4 from the ingestion of poisonous substances could be dramatically
5 reduced by the development of a poison control and drug informa-
6 tion program.

1 2. As used in this act:

2 a. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Department
3 of Health;

4 b. "Program" means the poison control and drug information
5 program established by the commissioner.

1 3. The commissioner shall establish a Statewide program of
2 poison control and drug information. Program services shall be
3 available on a 24 hour basis to the residents of every county.

1 4. The principal activity of the program shall be answering
2 requests by telephone for poison information and making recom-
3 mendations for appropriate management and treatment of poison-
4 ing exposure and overdose victims. Services of the poison control
5 and drug information program shall also include:

6 a. Evaluating whether treatment can be accomplished in the
7 home setting or whether transport to an emergency treatment
8 facility is required;

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 printed in italics *thus* is new matter.

Matter enclosed in asterisks or stars has been adopted as follows:

*—Assembly committee amendments adopted March 15, 1982.

9 b. Recommending treatment measures to appropriate personnel;
10 ***[c.]** Carrying out follow-up to assure that adequate care is pro-
11 vided;]*

12 ***[d.]** **c.** Providing follow-up education to prevent future
13 similar incidents;

14 ***[e.]** **d.** Providing community education programs designed
15 to improve public awareness of poisoning and overdose problems
16 and to educate the public regarding prevention; and,

17 ***[f.]** **e.** Answering drug information questions from health
18 professionals by providing current and accurate information relat-
19 ing to drugs and their therapeutic uses.

1 5. The program shall utilize physicians, pharmacists, nurses and
2 other necessary personnel trained in various aspects of toxicology,
3 poison control, and drug information retrieval and analysis.

1 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

12 d. Providing follow-up education to prevent future similar
13 incidents;

14 e. Providing community education programs designed to improve
15 public awareness of poisoning and overdose problems and to edu-
16 cate the public regarding prevention; and,

17 f. Answering drug information questions from health profes-
18 sionals by providing current and accurate information relating to
19 drugs and their therapeutic uses.

1 5. The program shall utilize physicians, pharmacists, nurses and
2 other necessary personnel trained in various aspects of toxicology,
3 poison control, and drug information retrieval and analysis.

1 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

STATEMENT

This bill provides for the establishment of a poison control and drug information program by the Commissioner of the Department of Health. The principal activity of the program will be answering requests by telephone for poison information and making recommendations for appropriate emergency care and treatment referral of poisoning exposure and overdose victims. Program services are to be available to the residents of every county on a 24 hour basis.

A443 (1982)

ASSEMBLY CORRECTIONS, HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 443

with Assembly committee amendment

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 11, 1982

This bill provides for the establishment of a poison control and drug information program by the Commissioner of the Department of Health. The principal focus of this program will be a toll-free, 24-hour-a-day hotline to answer requests for poison or drug overdose information and make recommendations for appropriate emergency care and treatment referral.

A Department of Health spokesman stated that \$50,000 in federal funds is available for start-up money for this program. Additionally, each hospital subscribing to poison control services will pay a fee of approximately \$2,500.00.

The committee amended the bill so that this program would not be responsible for carrying out any follow-ups to assure that adequate care is being provided. The committee agreed with the sponsor that such care should be the responsibility of appropriate medical personnel or the health care facility to which a poisoning case is referred.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RELEASE IMMEDIATE

CONTACT: PAUL WOLCOTT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1982

Governor Thomas H. Kean today signed legislation which will result in the creation of a statewide poison control and drug information program available to residents on a 24-hour basis.

The bill, A-443, sponsored by Assemblyman Harry A. McEnroe, D-Essex, requires the State Department of Health to set up a telephone system that can provide information and make recommendations for appropriate emergency care for victims of poisoning or drug overdose.

"An average of 100,000 New Jerseyans are the victims of accidental poisonings each year," Kean said. Of those, some 70 die, and many others suffer grave medical consequences. It is my hope that we can prevent many of these tragedies through this information program."

The law will assure that 24-hour information service is available statewide to all residents of the State. Currently, such programs are administered by major hospitals. With the Department of Health coordinating the effort, the program will be extended to provide the service in every county.

The program will be funded in part by federal grants totaling \$50,000. Johnson and Johnson, through its McNeil Laboratories, will provide \$37,500 in "seed money," with another \$1,000 coming from Hoffman-LaRoche Inc. Participating hospitals will provide the continuing funding.

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