

26:2H-18d

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST  
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(Robert Wood Johnson/St. Peter's  
acute care Children's hospital)

NJSA: 26:2H-18d  
LAWS OF: 1992 CHAPTER: 181  
BILL NO: S774  
SPONSOR(S) Sinagra  
DATE INTRODUCED: May 7, 1992  
COMMITTEE: ASSEMBLY: Health & Human Services  
SENATE: Health & Human Services  
AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No  
DATE OF PASSAGE: ASSEMBLY: October 29, 1992  
SENATE: August 3, 1992  
DATE OF APPROVAL: December 10, 1992

FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

SPONSOR STATEMENT: Yes  
COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY: Yes  
SENATE: Yes  
FISCAL NOTE: No  
VETO MESSAGE: No  
MESSAGE ON SIGNING: Yes  
FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:  
REPORTS: Yes  
HEARINGS: No

Attached:

974.90 New Jersey. Department of Health.  
H434 State health plan: Acute care hospital services' executive  
1991j summary. January 15, 1991. Trenton, 1991.  
pp.101-102

KBG:pp

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P.L.1992, CHAPTER 181, approved December 10, 1992  
1992 Senate No. 774

1 AN ACT providing for the designation of a children's hospital for  
2 central New Jersey, amending P.L.1985, c.306 and P.L.1987,  
3 c.299 and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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

7 1. (New section) a. The Commissioner of Health, subject to  
8 the provisions of subsection b. of this section, shall designate  
9 Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital/St. Peter's Medical  
10 Center in the City of New Brunswick as the State's specialty  
11 acute care children's hospital in central New Jersey for the  
12 counties of Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and  
13 Somerset.

14 b. The designation by the Commissioner of Health pursuant to  
15 subsection a. of this section shall be made subsequent to, and  
16 shall be contingent upon, the execution of a written agreement  
17 between Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital/St. Peter's  
18 Medical Center and a majority of the acute care hospitals  
19 providing inpatient pediatric services which are located in the  
20 counties listed in subsection a. of this section.

21 The written agreement shall state that the other facility  
22 recognizes Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital/St. Peter's  
23 Medical Center as the State's specialty acute care children's  
24 hospital for the counties listed in subsection a. of this section and  
25 shall set forth the basis on which the other facility shall make  
26 referrals to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital/St. Peter's  
27 Medical Center.

28 2. Section 2 of P.L.1985, c.306 (C.26:2H-18a) is amended to  
29 read as follows:

30 2. The Commissioner of Health shall designate Children's  
31 Hospital of New Jersey, a unit of United Hospitals Medical  
32 Center, as the State's specialty acute care children's hospital  
33 for northern New Jersey.  
34 (cf: P.L.1985, c.306, s.2)

35 3. Section 3 of P.L.1987, c.299 (C.26:2H-18c) is amended to  
36 read as follows:

37 3. a. The Commissioner of Health, subject to the provisions of  
38 subsection b. of this section, shall designate Cooper  
39 Hospital/University Medical Center in the City of Camden as the  
40 State's specialty acute care children's hospital in southern New  
41 Jersey for the counties of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape  
42 May, Cumberland, Gloucester, [Mercer, Monmouth,] Ocean and

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 Salem.

2 b. The designation by the Commissioner of Health pursuant to  
3 subsection a. of this section shall be made subsequent to, and  
4 shall be contingent upon, the execution of a written agreement  
5 between Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center and a  
6 majority of the acute care hospitals providing inpatient pediatric  
7 services which are located in the counties listed in subsection a.  
8 of this section.

9 The written agreement shall state that the other facility  
10 recognizes Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center as the  
11 State's specialty acute care children's hospital for the counties  
12 listed in subsection a. of this section and shall set forth the basis  
13 on which the other facility shall make referrals to Cooper  
14 Hospital/University Medical Center.

15 (cf: P.L.1987, c.298, s.3)

16 4. This act shall take effect on the 30th day after enactment.  
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18

#### 19 STATEMENT

20  
21 This bill designates Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital  
22 and St. Peter's Medical Center in New Brunswick, in a joint  
23 program, as the State's specialty acute care children's hospital  
24 in central New Jersey for the counties of Hunterdon, Mercer,  
25 Middlesex, Monmouth and Somerset.

26 The two hospitals are already providing comprehensive services  
27 to central New Jersey children. Robert Wood Johnson University  
28 Hospital is the core teaching hospital for the Robert Wood  
29 Johnson Medical School, and operates the region's only Pediatric  
30 Intensive Care Unit and Level 1 Trauma Center, which staffs a  
31 team for pediatric trauma. St. Peter's Medical Center is the  
32 region's only Level III Perinatal Center and sponsors the only  
33 accredited neonatal fellowship training program in the State.

34 The designation as a specialty acute care children's facility  
35 will be accomplished within the walls of the two hospitals and  
36 will allow for the addition of pediatric beds necessary to meet  
37 the need and demand for care. The children's hospital will be a  
38 resource for central New Jersey providers, will strengthen care  
39 provided by community hospitals and practitioners and will offer  
40 patients and families an alternative to seeking specialized care at  
41 out-of-State facilities, thereby keeping health care dollars in the  
42 State. Further, many health care professionals trained at the  
43 children's hospital will remain in New Jersey, further  
44 strengthening the quality of pediatric services in the State.

45 Presently, Children's Hospital of New Jersey, a unit of United  
46 Hospitals Medical Center and Cooper Hospital/University Medical  
47 Center are designated as the State's specialty acute care  
48 children's hospitals for northern and southern New Jersey,  
49 respectively.  
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53  
54 Designates Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and St.  
55 Peter's Medical Center as the children's hospital for central  
56 New Jersey.

1 Salem.

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ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 774

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 19, 1992

The Assembly Health and Human Services Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 774.

This bill designates Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and St. Peter's Medical Center in New Brunswick, in a joint program, as the State's specialty acute care children's hospital in central New Jersey for the counties of Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Somerset.

The two hospitals are already providing comprehensive services to central New Jersey children. Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital is the core teaching hospital for the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and operates the region's only Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and Level 1 Trauma Center, which staffs a team for pediatric trauma. St. Peter's Medical Center is the region's only Level III Perinatal Center and sponsors the only accredited neonatal fellowship training program in the State.

The designation as a specialty acute care children's facility will be accomplished within the walls of the two hospitals and will allow for the addition of pediatric beds necessary to meet the need and demand for care. The children's hospital will be a resource for central New Jersey providers, will strengthen care provided by community hospitals and practitioners, and will offer patients and families an alternative to seeking specialized care at out-of-State facilities, thereby keeping health care dollars in the State. Further, many health care professionals trained at the children's hospital will remain in New Jersey, further strengthening the quality of pediatric services in the State.

Presently, Children's Hospital of New Jersey, a unit of United Hospitals Medical Center and Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center are designated as the State's specialty acute care children's hospitals for northern and southern New Jersey, respectively.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1339 ACA (Wright/Mikulak), which the committee also reported on this date.

SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 774**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JULY 23, 1992

The Senate Health and Human Services Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 774.

This bill designates Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and St. Peter's Medical Center in New Brunswick, in a joint program, as the State's specialty acute care children's hospital in central New Jersey for the counties of Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Somerset.

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Presently, Children's Hospital of New Jersey, a unit of United Hospitals Medical Center and Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center are designated as the State's specialty acute care children's hospitals for northern and southern New Jersey, respectively.

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# OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

**CN-001**  
**Contact:**

**TRENTON, N.J. 08625**  
**Release:**

Jon Shure  
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Thursday  
Dec. 10, 1992

## **GOVERNOR NAMES NEW HEALTH COMMISSIONER** **Also Signs Bill Designating Acute Care Hospital for Children**

**NEW BRUNSWICK --** Governor Jim Florio today announced he will nominate Dr. Bruce Siegel as the state's new Health Commissioner, with a mandate to move health care reform forward into a new world that puts people first.

"This nomination is a natural progression. Bruce has come up through the ranks in the Health Department. He's deeply schooled in New Jersey's health care issues. He's a doctor motivated by caring and compassion," said Governor Florio. "Bruce has made health care financing and delivery his area of greatest expertise and he's been a key player in the effort to expand access to the uninsured. Bruce Siegel is just what the doctor ordered for New Jersey in the 1990's."

"New Jersey has been working against the mother of all deadlines to transform a broken health care system into an effective new compact that provides quality health care to all the hardworking people of this state," he said. "People from all sides of the issue had to come to the table to build a comprehensive state-wide response to New Jersey's health care crisis and together we took a great step forward. Bruce was a big part of that process. He worked tirelessly on every aspect of the health care problems in our state."

Dr. Siegel, 32, of Metuchen, was appointed Acting Commissioner in October, following the departure of Dr. Frances Dunston. He previously served as Deputy Commissioner and directed the department's activities in maternal and child health, substance abuse and other public health areas. Dr. Siegel served as a staff member of the Governor's Commission on Health Care Costs and is also a former Executive Director of the health department's Office of Policy and Research.

He received his M.D. from Cornell Medical College, an M.P.H. from Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and an A.B. from Princeton University.

The Governor also signed legislation designating Robert Wood Johnson and St. Peter's Medical Center in a joint program as the specialty acute care children's hospital for central New Jersey. Robert Wood Johnson operates the region's only

Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and Level 1 Trauma Center, which staffs a team for pediatric trauma cases. St. Peter's is the region's only Level III Perinatal Center and sponsors the only accredited neo-natal fellowship training program in the state.

"This legislation is a special gift to the families of Central New Jersey, a gift of superb medical care for all our children," said the Governor. "Robert Wood Johnson and St. Peter's Medical Center have a fine tradition of joint regional planning. Now they are pooling resources that make them uniquely qualified to serve children who need the most intense and sophisticated care."

Both hospitals will now begin the designation process of gaining agreements from the majority of acute care hospitals in Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth and Somerset counties to recognize the joint program and set up a referral system. The designation will make the new acute care center eligible for research and development funds. The center would also be able to apply for a certificate of need for additional beds, pediatric cardiac surgery and transplation services, and assist the program in recruiting staff.

The bill, S 774, was sponsored by Senators Jack Sinagra and John Lynch, and Assemblypersons Barbara Wright and Stephen Mikulak.



The major need is for the development of regional systems of high quality comprehensive maternal and child health care that is accessible, affordable and acceptable. To accomplish this the maternal and child health care systems must be linked and coordinated through regional networks of inpatient and outpatient providers.

For example, babies requiring neonatal intensive care often are afflicted with systemic problems that can only be addressed as they grow older. Thus, as they develop, these babies will require the services of specialty pediatric personnel, the kinds of staff that will be available in specialty acute care children's hospitals and Regional Pediatric Centers. Additionally, combining neonatal intensive care bassinets and Regional Pediatric Center services will assure greater continuity of care for the child and the family. Thus, from a quality and continuity of care perspective, the merging of pediatric and perinatal care planning and regions is clear and persuasive.

#### F. Recommendations

In summary form, this plan recommends:

- o The development of the two designated Childrens Hospitals at United/UMDNJ in Newark and Cooper Hospital/University Medical Center in Camden, with the future possibility of a third in New Brunswick joining Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center and St. Peter's Medical Center (all UMDNJ affiliate institutions) to provide comprehensive children's subspecialty services, including cardiac surgery, organ transplants, trauma care, and teaching and research capacity.
- o Designating 9-11 regional pediatric centers, which will provide core tertiary care inpatient and ambulatory care services. These would require a 30-bed "critical mass" of pediatric inpatient beds, pediatric intensive care, and a limited range of subspecialties. Regional Pediatric Centers will serve as the hub of a regional referral network involving all remaining community pediatric units and ambulatory/primary care centers.
- o Implementing a planning and designation process for community pediatric units, designed to close 500 to 800 of the state's licensed 2000 pediatric beds, ultimately involving approximately 25 hospital unit closures. This process will serve to increase occupancy levels from the current statewide average of 47% to over 70% if accomplished by 1994.

The designation of regional pediatric centers may be drawn from the following list of hospitals and will be based on recommendations from the MHC and LAB:

North

Hackensack Medical Center	- Bergen
St. Joseph's Medical Center	- Passaic
Newark Beth Israel Medical Center	- Essex
St. Barnabas Medical Center	- Essex
Morristown Memorial Hospital	- Morris
Jersey City Medical Center	- Hudson
Overlook Hospital	- Union

Central

Mercer Medical Center	- Mercer
Robert Wood Johnson Medical Center	- Middlesex
St. Peter's Medical Center	- Middlesex
Jersey Shore Medical Center	- Monmouth
Monmouth Medical Center	- Monmouth

South

Atlantic City Medical Center	- Atlantic
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Specific recommendations for both regional pediatric centers and community pediatric centers follow:

G. The Regionalization Plan

The Department evaluated a number of options and approaches to the regionalization of tertiary and community level inpatient pediatric care. In measuring these options against the goals expressed above, it was determined that a statewide structure of specialty acute care children's hospitals at the top of a pyramidal system, supported by regional pediatric centers in the designated perinatal regions of the state, and 25-30 community pediatric centers would fully meet the hospital-based treatment needs of children in New Jersey. This section of the plan presents a description of the elements of the proposed system, including characteristics of each of its levels, a bed need assessment, and hospital-specific recommendations for designation and/or closure:

1. Specialty Acute Care Childrens Hospitals

The Department believes that the designation of up to three specialty acute care children's hospitals will ultimately meet the most complex tertiary/specialty care and access needs of children in this state. United Hospitals is the site of one of these centers. A Certificate of Need was approved in 1988 to construct a new Children's Hospital facility on the grounds of UMDNJ. It will have a total of 126 pediatric beds, inclusive of 22 intensive care beds. Additionally, all of University Hospital's pediatric bed complement is to close upon completion of this new facility. As noted above, the designation of United is not directly related