



LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 1998

CHAPTER:136

NJSA: 26:2H-12.6a

"Pamphlet on child abuse -- distribution"

BILL NO: S972 (Substituted for A1963 - 1st Reprint)

SPONSOR(S): Bennett and DiFrancesco

DATE INTRODUCED: April 2, 1998

COMMITTEE:

ASSEMBLY: Senior Issues and Community Services

SENATE: Women's Issues

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE:

ASSEMBLY: September 28, 1998

SENATE: October 22, 1998

DATE OF APPROVAL: December 4, 1998

THE FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL: 2nd Reprint
(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

S972

SPONSORS STATEMENT: *Yes* (Begins on page 2 of original bill)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY: *Yes*

SENATE: *Yes*

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: *No*

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: *Yes*

A1963

SPONSORS STATEMENT: *Yes* (Begins on page 2 of original bill)
(Bill and Sponsors Statement identical to S972)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY: *Yes*

SENATE: *No*

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: *No*

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: *No*

VETO MESSAGE: *No*

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: *Yes*

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

*To check for circulating copies contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640
ext. 102 or refdesk@njstatelib.org*

REPORTS: *No*

HEARINGS: *No*

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: *No*

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 972

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 2, 1998

Sponsored by:

Senator JOHN O. BENNETT

District 12 (Monmouth)

Senator DONALD T. DIFRANCESCO

District 22 (Middlesex, Morris, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

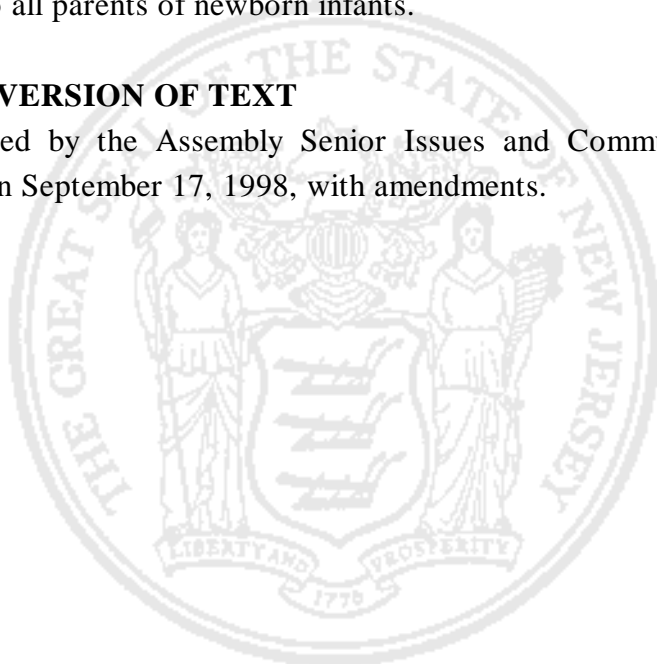
**Senators Codey, Palaia, Bark, Singer, Assemblywoman Watson Coleman
and Assemblyman Corodemus**

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHS to prepare pamphlet on child abuse and neglect to be distributed to all parents of newborn infants.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Senior Issues and Community Services Committee on September 17, 1998, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 9/29/1998)

1 AN ACT concerning new ²**[mothers]** parents ² and supplementing
2 Title ²**[26]** ² of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Department of ¹**[Health and Senior]** Human¹ Services,
8 in consultation with the Department of ¹**[Human]** Health and Senior¹
9 Services, shall prepare a pamphlet which provides information on child
10 ¹**[buse]** abuse¹ and neglect to all ¹**[mothers]** parents¹ of newborn
11 infants born in this State. The pamphlet shall be distributed to ¹**[the**
12 **mother]** each parent present during the infant's birth,¹ by the
13 personnel at a hospital or birthing facility at the time of the mother's
14 discharge, as part of the hospital or birthing facility's discharge
15 procedures.

16 b. The pamphlet shall include information on the signs of child
17 abuse and neglect, the services provided by the State which help in
18 preventing child abuse and neglect and the legal ramifications of
19 abusing or neglecting a child.

20 c. The department shall distribute the pamphlet, at no charge, to all
21 the hospitals and birthing facilities in the State. The department shall
22 update the pamphlet as necessary, and shall make additional copies of
23 the pamphlet available to health care providers upon request.

24

25 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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 Senate SWF committee amendments adopted May 21, 1998.

² Assembly ASC committee amendments adopted September 17, 1998.

SENATE, No. 972

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 2, 1998

Sponsored by:

Senator JOHN O. BENNETT

District 12 (Monmouth)

Senator DONALD T. DIFRANCESCO

District 22 (Middlesex, Morris, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Codey, Palaia, Bark and Singer

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHSS to prepare pamphlet on child abuse and neglect to be distributed to all mothers of new born infants.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning new mothers and supplementing Title 26 of the
2 Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Department of Health and Senior Services, in
8 consultation with the Department of Human Services, shall prepare a
9 pamphlet which provides information on child abuse and neglect to all
10 mothers of newborn infants born in this State. The pamphlet shall be
11 distributed to the mother by the personnel at a hospital or birthing
12 facility at the time of the mother's discharge, as part of the hospital or
13 birthing facility's discharge procedures.

14 b. The pamphlet shall include information on the signs of child
15 abuse and neglect, the services provided by the State which help in
16 preventing child abuse and neglect and the legal ramifications of
17 abusing or neglecting a child.

18 c. The department shall distribute the pamphlet, at no charge, to all
19 the hospitals and birthing facilities in the State. The department shall
20 update the pamphlet as necessary, and shall make additional copies of
21 the pamphlet available to health care providers upon request.

22

23 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

24

25

26

STATEMENT

27

28 This bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services, in
29 consultation with the Department of Human Services, to prepare a
30 pamphlet providing information on child abuse and neglect to all
31 mothers of newborn infants born in this State. The pamphlet would be
32 distributed at the time of the mother's discharge from a hospital or
33 birthing facility and would include information concerning:

34

- 35 • the signs of child abuse and neglect;
- 36 • the services provided by the State which help in preventing
37 child abuse and neglect; and
- 38 • the legal ramifications of abusing or neglecting a child.

39 Under the provisions of the bill, the department would also be
40 required to distribute the pamphlet to all hospitals and birthing
41 facilities in the State and make additional copies available to health
42 care providers upon request.

ASSEMBLY SENIOR ISSUES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 972

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 17, 1998

The Assembly Senior Issues and Community Services Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 972 (1R) with committee amendments.

As amended by committee, this bill requires the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Health and Senior Services, to prepare a pamphlet providing information on child abuse and neglect to all parents of newborn infants born in this State. The pamphlet would be distributed at the time of the mother's discharge from a hospital or birthing facility and would include information concerning:

- the signs of child abuse and neglect;
- the services provided by the State which help in preventing child abuse and neglect; and
- the legal ramifications of abusing or neglecting a child.

Under the provisions of the bill, the department would also be required to distribute the pamphlet to all hospitals and birthing facilities in the State and make additional copies available to health care providers upon request.

The amendments are technical in nature and change the title and synopsis of the bill.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1963Aca (Watson Coleman) which was amended and reported by this committee on this date.

SENATE WOMEN'S ISSUES, CHILDREN AND FAMILY
SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 972

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 21, 1998

The Senate Women's Issues, Children and Family Services Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 972 with committee amendments.

As amended, this bill requires the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Health and Senior Services, to prepare a pamphlet providing information on child abuse and neglect to all parents of newborn infants born in this State. The pamphlet would be distributed at the time of the mother's discharge from a hospital or birthing facility and would include information concerning:

- the signs of child abuse and neglect;
- the services provided by the State which help in preventing child abuse and neglect; and
- the legal ramifications of abusing or neglecting a child.

Under the provisions of the bill, the department would also be required to distribute the pamphlet to all hospitals and birthing facilities in the State and make additional copies available to health care providers upon request.

The committee amended the bill to require the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Health and Senior Services, to distribute the pamphlet on child abuse and neglect, at the time of a mother's discharge from the hospital or birthing facility, to each parent of a newborn infant present during the infant's birth.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 972

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

208th LEGISLATURE

DATED: AUGUST 18, 1998

Senate Bill No. 972 (1R) of 1998 requires the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Health and Senior Services, to prepare a pamphlet which provides information on child abuse and neglect to all parents of newborn infants born in this State. The pamphlet shall be distributed to each parent present during the infant's birth by the personnel at a hospital or birthing facility at the time of the mother's discharge, as part of the hospital or birthing facility's discharge procedures. The pamphlet shall include information on the signs of child abuse and neglect, the services provided by the State which help in preventing child abuse and neglect and the legal ramifications of abusing or neglecting a child.

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that the cost of implementing this bill to be between \$50,000 and \$95,000. These costs would include the printing and distribution costs of the pamphlet which would be given to the parents of the approximately 120,000 infants born in the State of New Jersey each year.

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.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1963

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED APRIL 20, 1998

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

District 15 (Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Requires DHSS to prepare pamphlet on child abuse and neglect to be distributed to all mothers of new born infants.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning new mothers and supplementing Title 26 of the
2 Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. The Department of Health and Senior Services, in
8 consultation with the Department of Human Services, shall prepare a
9 pamphlet which provides information on child abuse and neglect to all
10 mothers of newborn infants born in this State. The pamphlet shall be
11 distributed to the mother by the personnel at a hospital or birthing
12 facility at the time of the mother's discharge, as part of the hospital or
13 birthing facility's discharge procedures.

14 b. The pamphlet shall include information on the signs of child
15 abuse and neglect, the services provided by the State which help in
16 preventing child abuse and neglect and the legal ramifications of
17 abusing or neglecting a child.

18 c. The department shall distribute the pamphlet, at no charge, to all
19 the hospitals and birthing facilities in the State. The department shall
20 update the pamphlet as necessary, and shall make additional copies of
21 the pamphlet available to health care providers upon request.

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23 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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28 This bill requires the Department of Health and Senior Services, in
29 consultation with the Department of Human Services, to prepare a
30 pamphlet providing information on child abuse and neglect to all
31 mothers of newborn infants born in this State. The pamphlet would be
32 distributed at the time of the mother's discharge from a hospital or
33 birthing facility and would include information concerning:

- 34 • the signs of child abuse and neglect;
35 • the services provided by the State which help in preventing
36 child abuse and neglect; and
37 • the legal ramifications of abusing or neglecting a child.

38 Under the provisions of the bill, the department would also be
39 required to distribute the pamphlet to all hospitals and birthing
40 facilities in the State and make additional copies available to health
41 care providers upon request.

ASSEMBLY SENIOR ISSUES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1963

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 17, 1998

The Assembly Senior Issues and Community Services Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 1963 with committee amendments.

As amended by committee, this bill requires the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Health and Senior Services, to prepare a pamphlet providing information on child abuse and neglect to all parents of newborn infants born in this State. The pamphlet would be distributed at the time of the mother's discharge from a hospital or birthing facility and would include information concerning:

- the signs of child abuse and neglect;
- the services provided by the State which help in preventing child abuse and neglect; and
- the legal ramifications of abusing or neglecting a child.

Under the provisions of the bill, the department would also be required to distribute the pamphlet to all hospitals and birthing facilities in the State and make additional copies available to health care providers upon request.

The amendments require the Department of Human Services, instead of the Department of Health and Senior Services, to prepare the pamphlet, and specifies that distribution of the pamphlet shall be to all parents present during the infant's birth, instead of all mothers, of newborn infants born in the State.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 972(1R) (Bennett/DeFrancesco) which was amended and reported by this committee on this date.

Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Wendi Patella
609-777-2600

RELEASE: December 4, 1998

Governor Signs Bill Requiring Child Abuse Pamphlet, Urges Parents to Fight Stress During the Holiday Season

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed a bill that requires a pamphlet about child abuse and neglect to be distributed to all parents of newborn children. The Governor also reminded parents to know the signs of stress - and how to deal with it -- during the holidays.

"During the holiday season, many parents are under additional stress. Unfortunately for children, this stress can often lead to child abuse or neglect," Gov. Whitman said. "It is understandable how parents can find themselves overwhelmed during the holidays, but abusing or neglecting a child is never excusable."

S-972, sponsored by Senators John Bennett (R-Monmouth) and Donald DiFrancesco (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and Assembly Member Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-Mercer), requires the Department of Human Services, in consultation with the Department of Health and Senior Services, to prepare a pamphlet containing:

- the signs of child abuse and neglect,
- the services provided by the state which help in preventing child abuse and neglect, and
- the legal ramifications of abusing or neglecting a child.

The pamphlet "A Survival Guide for Parents" will be distributed to each parent present during the infant's birth at the time of the mother's discharge from a hospital or birthing facility.

"Everyone knows that there is no training or experience that can prepare us for the job of parenting," Gov. Whitman said. "This resource for parents will help them understand exactly what can constitute child abuse or neglect, as well as offer tips for preventing a tragedy in their home."

Among the tips the Governor offered to parents for the holidays are:

- Call the Family Helpline at 1-800-THE-KIDS for answers to questions on child abuse and its prevention, or as an anonymous hotline for parents who simply need someone to talk to.

- Count to 10 when you feel stress coming on.
- Vent your frustrations privately. Go to another room and close the door when it is necessary to scream or cry.
- Do something physical as a family. You don't have to stay cooped up in your house, letting the stress of the day build up. Take your children out for a walk or play in the snow - both are good outlets for pent-up feelings of frustration.
- Make sure everyone in the family gets enough sleep. Children - and parents - who do not get enough rest won't be any fun.
- Plan ahead. Pre-planning holiday outings can save time and energy, and can be a way to involve even young children.
- Take time for yourself. While holidays usually focus on family and friends, don't forget to take some time out for your own holiday.
- Take advantage of free community events. Check your local newspaper for announcements about upcoming events and attend as a family.

The Governor also urged parents to contact the New Jersey Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect for pamphlets on "Survival Guide for Parents," "Hassle Free Holidays," or for their 1999 calendar - illustrated by New Jersey school children -- which offers daily parenting tips.