

ASSEMBLY, No. 1132

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman CRAIG J. COUGHLIN

District 19 (Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Excludes donations up to \$15,000 when determining income eligibility for applicants to the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief
2 Fund and supplementing P.L.1987, c.370 (C.26:2-148 et seq.).

3

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

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7 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law or
8 regulation to the contrary, the Catastrophic Illness in Children
9 Relief Fund Commission shall exclude from the income of a parent
10 or legal guardian applying to the Catastrophic Illness in Children
11 Relief Fund program up to \$15,000 in donations made to the parent
12 or legal guardian by members of their community to assist with
13 family living expenses, for the purpose of determining the
14 eligibility of the parent or legal guardian for the payment or
15 reimbursement of medical expenses for a child with a catastrophic
16 illness.

17 b. As used in this section, “family living expenses” means
18 expenses for travel, lodging, meals, and other reasonable and
19 necessary costs associated with the care of a child with a
20 catastrophic illness.

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22 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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27 This bill requires that when determining a parent’s or legal
28 guardian’s eligibility for the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief
29 Fund program established pursuant to P.L.1987, c.370 (C.26:2-
30 148), the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund Commission
31 exclude from the parent’s or legal guardian’s income up to \$15,000
32 in donations made to the parent or legal guardian by members of
33 their community to assist with family living expenses.

34 As used in the bill, “family living expenses” means expenses for
35 travel, lodging, meals, and other reasonable and necessary costs
36 associated with the care of a child with a catastrophic illness.

37 Current law does not allow for the exclusion of any type of
38 income when determining eligibility for the Catastrophic Illness in
39 Children in Relief Fund program.

40 It is common for a community to rally around the family of a
41 child with a catastrophic illness, and to undertake fundraising
42 efforts to assist the family with living expenses, such as travel,
43 lodging, meals, and other costs associated with the care of a child
44 with a catastrophic illness.

45 Therefore, it is the sponsor’s intent to guarantee that the amount
46 a parent or legal guardian receives from the Catastrophic Illness in
47 Children in Relief Fund program for the payment or reimbursement
48 of medical expenses for a child with a catastrophic illness will not
49 be negatively impacted by such donations.