

ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1690**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: FEBRUARY 23,1998

The Assembly Health Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1690.

This bill eliminates the requirement provided in section 8 of P.L.1996, c.28 (C.26:2H-18.59f) that the Commissioner of Human Services seek federal approval to establish a permanent Statewide program for providing hospital charity care services on a managed care basis.

Instead of a permanent Statewide program, this bill would permit the Commissioner of Human Services to seek federal approval to establish a demonstration managed charity care program, within a single region or county, for a two-year period in order to test the programmatic and fiscal viability of delivering charity care services by this alternative means. If this demonstration program is approved, the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services would report to the Governor and the Legislature on the results of this demonstration program, along with any recommendations for expanding the program that the commissioner deems appropriate.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 580 (Matheussen/Bennett), which was proposed for introduction on February 10, 1998.