

THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY
NEW JERSEY 212TH LEGISLATURE
ASSEMBLY BILL 2823

VERSION: Enacted - Pamphlet Law

VERSION-DATE: June 22, 2006

SYNOPSIS: AN ACT concerning long-term care for Medicaid recipients and supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

DIGEST:

Approved June 21, 2006.

TEXT: BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

C.30:4D-17.23 Short title.

1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Independence, Dignity and Choice in Long-Term Care Act."

C.30:4D-17.24 Findings, declarations relative to long-term care for Medicaid recipients.

2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

a. The current population of adults 60 years of age and older in New Jersey is about 1.4 million, and this number is expected to double in size over the next 25 years;

b. A primary objective of public policy governing access to long-term care in this State shall be to promote the independence, dignity and lifestyle choice of older adults and persons with physical disabilities or Alzheimer's disease and related disorders;

c. Many states are actively seeking to "rebalance" their long-term care programs and budgets in order to support consumer choice and offer more choices for older adults and persons with disabilities to live in their homes and communities;

d. New Jersey has been striving to redirect long-term care away from an over-reliance on institutional care toward more home and community-based options; however, it is still often easier for older adults and persons with disabilities to qualify for Medicaid long-term care coverage if they are admitted to a nursing home than if they seek to obtain services through one of the Medicaid home and community-based long-term care options available in this State, such as the Community Care Program for the Elderly and Disabled, Assisted Living, Adult Family Care, Caregiver Assistance Program, Adult Day Health Services, Traumatic Brain Injury, AIDS Community Care Alternatives Program, Community Resources for People with Disabilities, or Community Resources for People with Disabilities Private Duty Nursing;

e. The federal "New Freedom Initiative" was launched in 2001 for the purpose of promoting the goal of independent living for persons with disabilities; and Executive Order No. 13217, issued

by the President of the United States on June 18, 2001, called upon the federal government to assist states and localities to swiftly implement the 1999 United States Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* and directed federal agencies to evaluate their policies, programs, statutes and regulations to determine whether any should be revised or modified to improve the availability of community-based services for qualified persons with disabilities;

f. Executive Order No. 100, issued by the Governor on March 23, 2004, directed the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, in consultation with the State Treasurer, to prepare an analysis and recommendations for developing a global long-term care budgeting process designed to provide the Department of Health and Senior Services with the authority and flexibility to move Medicaid recipients into the appropriate level of care based on their individual needs, and to identify specific gaps and requirements necessary to streamline paperwork and expedite the process of obtaining Medicaid eligibility for home care options for those who qualify;

g. Executive Order No. 31, issued by the Governor on April 21, 2005, established a "money follows the person" pilot program and set aside funding in fiscal year 2006 for home and community-based long-term care;

h. Older adults and those with physical disabilities or Alzheimer's disease and related disorders that require a nursing facility level of care should not be forced to choose between going into a nursing home or giving up the medical assistance that pays for their needed services, and thereby be denied the right to choose where they receive those services; their eligibility for home and community-based long-term care services under Medicaid should be based upon the same income and asset standards as those used to determine eligibility for long-term care in an institutional setting; and

i. The enactment of this bill will ensure that, in the case of Medicaid-funded long-term care services, "the money follows the person" to allow maximum flexibility between nursing homes and home and community-based settings when it does not compromise federal funding or services in the nursing home and, in so doing, significantly expands the choices available to consumers of these services and thereby fulfills the goal of personal independence so highly valued by the growing number of older adults and persons with disabilities in this State.

C.30:4D-17.25 Definitions relative to long-term care for Medicaid recipients.

3. As used in this act:

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services.

"Funding parity between nursing home care and home and community-based care" means that the distribution of the amounts expended for these two categories of long-term care under the Medicaid program reflects an appropriate balance between the service delivery costs of those persons whose needs and preferences can most appropriately be met in a nursing home and those persons whose needs and preferences can most appropriately be met in a home or community-based setting.

"Home and community-based care" means Medicaid home and community-based long-term care options available in this State, including, but not limited to, the Community Care Program for the Elderly and Disabled, Assisted Living, Adult Family Care, Caregiver Assistance Program, Adult Day Health Services, Traumatic Brain Injury, AIDS Community Care Alternatives Program,

Community Resources for People with Disabilities, and Community Resources for People with Disabilities Private Duty Nursing.

C.30:4D-17.26 Process to rebalance allocation of funding for expansion of long-term care services; pilot program, use Statewide.

4. a. (1) Beginning in fiscal year 2008, and in each succeeding fiscal year through fiscal year 2013, the commissioner, in consultation with the State Treasurer and the Commissioner of Human Services and in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall implement a process that rebalances the overall allocation of funding within the Department of Health and Senior Services for long-term care services through the expansion of home and community-based services for persons eligible for long-term care as defined by regulation of the commissioner. The expansion of home and community-based services shall be funded, within the existing level of appropriations, by diverting persons in need of long-term care to allow maximum flexibility between nursing home placements and home and community-based services. The State Treasurer, after review and analysis, shall determine the transfer of such funding to home and community-based services provided by the Departments of Health and Senior Services and Human Services as is necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

(2) Beginning in fiscal year 2008, and in each succeeding fiscal year through fiscal year 2013, funds equal to the amount of the reduction in the projected growth of Medicaid expenditures for nursing home care pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, for State dollars only plus the percentage anticipated for programs and persons that will receive federal matching dollars, shall be reallocated to home and community-based care through a global budget and expended solely for such care, until the commissioner determines that total Medicaid expenditures for long-term care have been sufficiently rebalanced to achieve funding parity between nursing home care and home and community-based care. Any funds so reallocated, which are not expended in the fiscal year in which they are reallocated, shall be reserved for expenditures for home and community-based care in a subsequent fiscal year.

(3) Subject to federal approval, the home and community-based services to which funds are reallocated pursuant to this act shall include services designated by the commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the Medicaid Long-Term Care Funding Advisory Council established pursuant to this act.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection to the contrary, this act shall not be construed to authorize a reduction in funding for Medicaid-approved services based upon the approved State Medicaid nursing home reimbursement methodology, including existing cost screens used to determine daily rates, annual rebasing and inflationary adjustments.

b. The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services, shall adopt modifications to the Medicaid long-term care intake system that promote increased use of home and community-based services. These modifications shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) commencing March 1, 2007, on a pilot basis in Atlantic and Warren counties, pursuant to Executive Order No. 31 of 2005:

(a) the provision of home and community-based services available under Medicaid, as designated by the commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services and the Medicaid Long-Term Care Funding Advisory Council established pursuant to this act,

pending completion of a formal Medicaid financial eligibility determination for the recipient of services, for a period that does not exceed a time limit established by the commissioner; except that the cost of any services provided pursuant to this subparagraph to a person who is subsequently determined to be ineligible for Medicaid may be recovered from that person; and

(b) the use of mechanisms for making fast-track Medicaid eligibility determinations, a revised clinical assessment instrument, and a computerized tracking system for Medicaid long-term care expenditures; and

(2) commencing March 1, 2008, expansion of the services and measures provided for in paragraph (1) of this subsection to all of the remaining counties in the State, subject to the commissioner conducting or otherwise providing for an evaluation of the pilot programs in Atlantic and Warren counties prior to that date and determining from that evaluation that the pilot programs are cost-effective and should be expanded Statewide.

C.30:4D-17.27 Duties of commissioner relative to report on budget, management plan.

5. The commissioner, in consultation with the Medicaid Long-Term Care Funding Advisory Council established pursuant to this act, shall:

a. no later than October 1, 2007, present a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), that provides a detailed budget and management plan for effectuating the purposes of this act, including a projected schedule and procedures for the implementation and operation of the Medicaid long-term care expenditure reforms required pursuant thereto; and

b. no later than January 1, 2008, present a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), that documents the reallocation of funds to home and community-based care pursuant to section 4 of this act, and present an updated report no later than January 1 of each succeeding year until the commissioner determines that total Medicaid expenditures for long-term care have been sufficiently rebalanced to achieve funding parity between nursing home care and home and community-based care, at which point the commissioner shall document and certify to the Governor and the Legislature that such funding parity has been achieved.

C.30:4D-17.28 Duties of commissioner relative to funding parity, coordination, assessment instrument.

6. The commissioner, in consultation with the Medicaid Long-Term Care Funding Advisory Council established pursuant to this act, shall:

a. Implement, by such time as the commissioner certifies to the Governor and the Legislature that funding parity has been achieved pursuant to subsection b. of section 5 of this act, a comprehensive data system to track long-term care expenditures and services and consumer profiles and preferences. The data system shall include, but not be limited to: the number of vacant nursing home beds annually and the number of nursing home residents transferred to home and community-based care pursuant to this act; annual long-term care expenditures for nursing home care and each of the home and community based long-term care options available to Medicaid recipients; and annual percentage changes in both long-term care expenditures for, and the number of Medicaid recipients utilizing, nursing home care and each of the home and community based long-term care options, respectively;

b. Commence the following no later than January 1, 2008:

(1) implement a system of Statewide long-term care service coordination and management designed to minimize administrative costs, improve access to services, and minimize obstacles to the delivery of long-term care services to people in need;

(2) identify home and community based long-term care service models that are determined by the commissioner to be efficient and cost-effective alternatives to nursing home care, and develop clear and concise performance standards for those services for which standards are not already available in a home and community-based services waiver;

(3) develop and implement with the Commissioner of Human Services a comprehensive consumer assessment instrument that is designed to facilitate an expedited process to authorize the provision of home and community-based care to a person through fast track eligibility prior to completion of a formal financial eligibility determination; and

(4) develop and implement a comprehensive quality assurance system with appropriate and regular assessments that is designed to ensure that all forms of long-term care available to consumers in this State are financially viable, cost-effective, and promote and sustain consumer independence; and

c. Seek to make information available to the general public on a Statewide basis, through print and electronic media, regarding the various forms of long-term care available in this State and the rights accorded to long-term care consumers by statute and regulation, as well as information about public and nonprofit agencies and organizations that provide informational and advocacy services to assist long-term care consumers and their families.

C.30:4D-17.29 Medicaid Long-Term Care Funding Advisory Council.

7. a. There is established the Medicaid Long-Term Care Funding Advisory Council within the Department of Health and Senior Services. The advisory council shall meet at least quarterly during each fiscal year until such time as the commissioner certifies to the Governor and the Legislature that funding parity has been achieved pursuant to subsection b. of section 5 of this act, and shall be entitled to receive such information from the Departments of Health and Senior Services, Human Services and the Treasury as the advisory council deems necessary to carry out its responsibilities under this act.

b. The advisory council shall:

(1) monitor and assess, and advise the commissioner on, the implementation and operation of the Medicaid long-term care expenditure reforms and other provisions of this act; and

(2) develop recommendations for a program to recruit and train a stable workforce of home care providers, including recommendations for changes to provider reimbursement under Medicaid home and community-based care programs.

c. The advisory council shall comprise 15 members as follows:

(1) the commissioner, the Commissioner of Human Services and the State Treasurer, or their designees, as ex officio members; and

(2) 12 public members to be appointed by the commissioner as follows: one person appointed upon the recommendation of AARP; one person upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Association of Area Agencies on Aging, one person upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Association of County Offices for the Disabled; one person upon the recommendation of the Health Care Association of New Jersey; one person upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Association of Non-Profit Homes for the Aging; one person upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Hospital Association; one person upon the recommendation of the Rutgers Center for State Health Policy; one person upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Elder Rights Coalition; one person upon the recommendation of the County Welfare Directors Association of New Jersey; one person upon the recommendation of the New Jersey Adult Day Services Association; one person upon the recommendation of a labor union that represents home and community-based health care workers; and one person who is a representative of the home care industry.

d. The advisory council shall organize as soon as possible after the appointment of its members, and shall annually select from its membership a chairman who shall serve until his successor is elected and qualifies. The members shall also select a secretary who need not be a member of the advisory council.

e. The department shall provide such staff and administrative support to the advisory council as it requires to carry out its responsibilities.

C.30:4D-17.30 Waiver of federal requirements.

8. The Commissioner of Human Services, with the approval of the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, shall apply to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for any waiver of federal requirements, or for any State plan amendments or home and community-based services waiver amendments, which may be necessary to obtain federal financial participation for State Medicaid expenditures in order to effectuate the purposes of this act.

C.30:4D-17.31 Tracking of expenditures.

9. The commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Human Services, shall track Medicaid long-term care expenditures necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

C.30:4D-17.32 Inclusion of budget line for Medicaid long-term care expenditures.

10. There shall be included a unique global budget appropriation line item for Medicaid long-term care expenditures in the annual appropriations act for fiscal year 2008 and each succeeding fiscal year in order to provide flexibility to align these expenditures with services to be provided during each fiscal year as necessary to effectuate the purposes of this act.

11. This act shall take effect immediately.

SPONSOR: Whelan