

## CHAPTER 98

AN ACT concerning post-polio sequelae and supplementing Title 26 of the Revised Statutes.

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

C.26:2-180 Findings, declarations relative to post-polio sequelae.

1. The Legislature finds and declares that:
  - a. There are estimated to be 1.63 million American polio survivors, 50,000 in New Jersey alone;
  - b. At least 70% of paralytic and 40% of non-paralytic polio survivors are developing post-polio sequelae, which consist of unexpected and often disabling symptoms, including overwhelming fatigue, muscle weakness, muscle and joint pain, sleep disorders, heightened sensitivity to anesthesia, cold and pain, and difficulty swallowing and breathing, and which occur 35 years after the initial poliovirus attack;
  - c. Post-polio sequelae can be treated and even prevented if polio survivors are taught to conserve energy and stop abusing poliovirus-damaged neurons, muscles and joints and are prescribed needed assistive devices;
  - d. Polio survivors have unique health problems, including sleep disorders, heightened sensitivity to anesthesia, cold and pain, and difficulty swallowing and breathing, which require special attention from medical professionals; and
  - e. It is in the public interest to make information about post-polio sequelae available to the general public through health care providers, so that polio survivors and their family members can learn about the various aspects of this condition.

C.26:2-181 Public awareness campaign relative to post-polio sequelae.

2. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall establish a public awareness campaign to inform the general public about post-polio sequelae, for which purpose the commissioner shall provide for the development of educational materials, in consultation with health care facilities and providers that have a demonstrated record of expertise and interest in this subject, which shall be made available to local boards of health, physicians, hospitals and clinics for distribution to consumers.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved June 15, 2005.