

ASSEMBLY, No. 4208

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 14, 2007

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman MICHAEL J. PANTER

District 12 (Mercer and Monmouth)

Assemblyman ERIC MUNOZ

District 21 (Essex, Morris, Somerset and Union)

Assemblyman NEIL M. COHEN

District 20 (Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

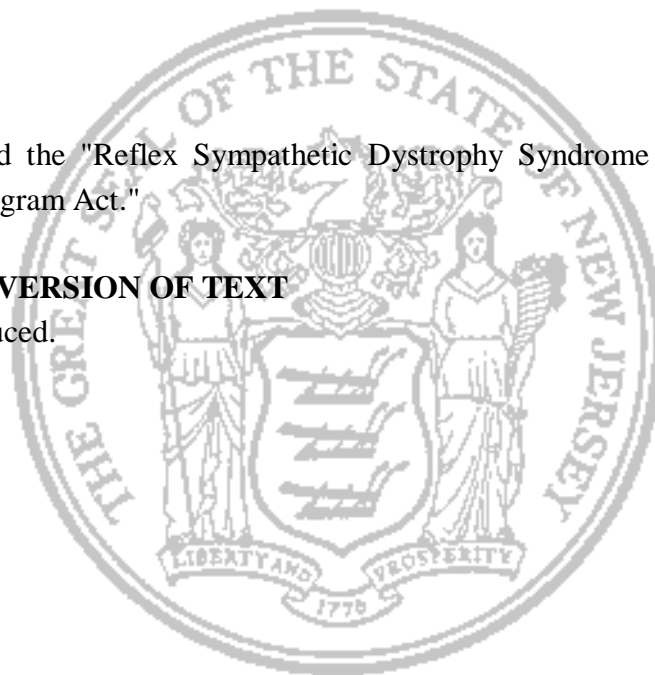
Assemblymen Conaway, Gordon, Assemblywoman Greenstein, Assemblymen Green, Corodemus, Thompson, Chivukula, Johnson, Assemblywoman Truitt, Assemblymen Manzo, Steele, Greenwald, Gusciora, Assemblywoman Voss, Assemblymen Mayer, McKeon, Stanley, Scalera, Assemblywoman Stender, Assemblymen Diegnan, Epps, Van Drew, Senators Palaia and Lance

SYNOPSIS

Designated the "Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Education and Research Program Act."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/18/2007)

1 AN ACT establishing a reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome
2 education and research program and supplementing Title 26 of
3 the Revised Statutes.

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

7
8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Reflex
9 Sympathetic Dystrophy Syndrome Education and Research Program
10 Act."

11
12 2. The Legislature finds and declares that:

13 a. Reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome (RSDS), also
14 known as complex regional pain syndrome, is a debilitating and
15 progressively chronic condition characterized by severe burning
16 pain, pathological changes in bone and skin, excessive sweating,
17 tissue swelling and extreme sensitivity to touch;

18 b. More specifically, RSDS is thought to be a nerve disorder
19 that generally occurs at the site of a minor or major trauma injury,
20 but may also occur without an apparent injury to the afflicted
21 person;

22 c. While the causes of RSDS are unknown, the syndrome is
23 thought to be the result of damaged nerves of the sympathetic
24 nervous system;

25 d. The disorder is unique in that it simultaneously affects the
26 nerves, skin, muscles, blood vessels and bones, and if untreated, can
27 result in permanent deformity and chronic pain;

28 e. RSDS is often misdiagnosed because this condition is either
29 unknown or is poorly understood; the prognosis for patients
30 suffering from RSDS is generally much better when the condition is
31 identified and treated as early as possible, ideally within three
32 months of identifying the first symptoms;

33 f. If treatment is delayed, the disorder can quickly spread to
34 the entire limb, and changes in bone and muscle may become
35 irreversible, resulting in limited mobility, atrophy of the muscles
36 and eventual permanent disability of patients; and

37 g. Since a delay in diagnosis or treatment for this syndrome can
38 result in severe physical and physiological problems, and early
39 recognition and prompt treatment of RSDS provides the greatest
40 opportunity for recovery, it is in the best interest of the public to
41 establish a program to educate both individuals and medical
42 professionals regarding this debilitating condition and to promote
43 research to accurately identify, diagnose and treat RSDS.

44
45 3. As used in this act:

46 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Health and Senior
47 Services; and

1 "Reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome" or "RSDS" means a
2 debilitating and progressively chronic condition characterized by
3 severe burning pain, pathological changes in bone and skin,
4 excessive sweating, tissue swelling and extreme sensitivity to touch.
5

6 4. The commissioner shall establish a reflex sympathetic
7 dystrophy syndrome education and research program in the
8 Department of Health and Senior Services. The purpose of the
9 program is to promote public awareness of the causes of RSDS, the
10 value of early detection and the diagnosis of and possible treatments
11 for the syndrome, and to promote research, through public and
12 private sources, to accurately identify, diagnose and treat RSDS.
13

14 5. The Department of Health and Senior Services shall:

15 a. establish a public education program through the
16 department's website, to promote RSDS education, which will
17 enable individuals to make informed decisions about their health,
18 including, but not limited to the following elements:

19 (1) the cause and nature of RSDS;

20 (2) the risk factors that contribute to the manifestation of RSDS;

21 (3) available treatment options, including risks and benefits of
22 those options;

23 (4) environmental safety and injury prevention;

24 (5) rest and use of appropriate body mechanics;

25 (6) the availability of RSDS diagnostic, treatment and outreach
26 services in the community; and

27 (7) any other factors or elements that might mitigate the effects
28 of RSDS;

29 b. notify local health departments, hospitals, clinics and other
30 health care providers about the availability of information
31 concerning RSDS on the department's website;

32 c. within the limits of funds available to the department for this
33 purpose, coordinate, promote and offer professional education
34 programs, through institutions of higher education, for health care
35 providers and health-related community-based organizations, which
36 may include, but are not limited to the following elements:

37 (1) research findings;

38 (2) the cause and nature of RSDS;

39 (3) the risk factors, including, but not limited to, lifestyle,
40 heredity and drug interactions;

41 (4) the diagnostic procedures and appropriate indications for
42 their use;

43 (5) medical and surgical treatment options, including
44 experimental and established drug therapies and the risks and
45 benefits of each option;

46 (6) environmental safety and injury prevention; and

47 (7) the availability of RSDS diagnosis and treatment and support
48 services in the community; and

1 d. promote research, through both private and public funding
2 sources, to accurately identify, diagnose and treat RSDS.

3

4 6. The commissioner may accept and expend any grants,
5 awards or other funds or appropriations as may be made available
6 for the purposes of this act.

7

8 7. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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13 This bill establishes a reflex sympathetic dystrophy syndrome
14 (RSDS) education and research program in the Department of
15 Health and Senior Services. The purpose of the program is to
16 promote public awareness of the causes of RSDS, the value of early
17 detection and the diagnosis of and possible treatments for the
18 syndrome, and to promote research, through public and private
19 sources, to accurately identify, diagnose and treat the syndrome.

20 Under the provisions of the bill, the department would:

- 21 • establish a public education program, through the
22 department's website, to promote RSDS education, which
23 will enable individuals to make informed decisions about
24 their health, including, but not limited to the following
25 elements: the cause and nature of RSDS; the risk factors that
26 contribute to the manifestation of RSDS; available treatment
27 options, including risks and benefits of those options;
28 environmental safety and injury prevention; rest and use of
29 appropriate body mechanics; the availability of RSDS
30 diagnostic, treatment and outreach services in the
31 community; and any other factors or elements that might
32 mitigate the effects of RSDS.
- 33 • notify local health departments, hospitals, clinics and other
34 health care providers about the availability of information
35 concerning RSDS on the department's website;
- 36 • within the limits of funds available to the department for this
37 purpose, coordinate, promote and offer professional
38 education programs, through institutions of higher
39 education, for health care providers and health-related
40 community-based organizations, which may include, but are
41 not limited to the following elements: research findings; the
42 cause and nature of RSDS; the risk factors, including, but
43 not limited to, lifestyle, heredity and drug interactions; the
44 diagnostic procedures and appropriate indications for their
45 use; medical and surgical treatment options, including
46 experimental and established drug therapies and the risks
47 and benefits of each option; environmental safety and injury

1 prevention; and the availability of RSDS diagnosis and
2 treatment and support services in the community; and

- 3 • promote research, through both private and public funding
4 sources, to accurately identify, diagnose and treat RSDS.

5 Lastly, the bill provides that the Commissioner of Health and
6 Senior Services may accept and expend any grants, awards or other
7 funds or appropriations as may be made available for the bill's
8 purposes.