

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION No. 143**

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

214th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 20, 2010

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JACK CONNERS
District 7 (Burlington and Camden)
Assemblyman VINCENT PRIETO
District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to fully fund federal mandate regarding electronic health records at New Jersey VA health care facilities.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/19/2010)

ACR143 CONNERS, PRIETO

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1 **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** respectfully urging the United States
2 Congress to fully fund the federal mandate regarding electronic
3 health records at all VA health care facilities in New Jersey.

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5 **WHEREAS**, In February 2009, the United States Congress enacted the
6 “Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health
7 (HITECH) Act” as part of Public Law No. 111-5, the “American
8 Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009”; and

9 **WHEREAS**, The “HITECH Act” provides incentive payments through
10 the Medicare and Medicaid programs for health care providers to
11 make “meaningful use” of electronic health records by the end of
12 the year 2014 and subjects health care providers to penalties in the
13 form of reduced Medicare payments if they do not meet the
14 “HITECH Act” standards by the year 2015; and

15 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey presently owns and operates three Veterans
16 Memorial Homes under the jurisdiction of the New Jersey
17 Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, through the Division
18 of Veterans Healthcare Services, which provide veterans and
19 qualified family members with comprehensive, long-term health
20 care services; and

21 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans
22 Affairs estimates it will cost an additional \$2,500,000 to purchase
23 the equipment necessary to become compliant with the electronic
24 health records standards in the “HITECH Act,” which includes
25 hardware, software, licensing fees, computers and a compatible
26 computer program for billing; and

27 **WHEREAS**, In light of the current budgetary constraints in New
28 Jersey, which are likely to persist, it will not be possible for the
29 State to fully fund the measures necessary to bring the State’s
30 three Veterans Memorial Homes into compliance with the
31 electronic health records standards in the “HITECH Act”; now,
32 therefore,

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34 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
35 Jersey (the Senate concurring):

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37 1. The Legislature of the State of New Jersey respectfully urges
38 the United States Congress to provide the full funding necessary to
39 bring the three State Veterans Memorial Homes into compliance
40 with the electronic health records requirements of the “Health
41 Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act,”
42 enacted as part of United States Public Law No. 111-5, the
43 “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.”

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45 2. Duly authenticated copies of this concurrent resolution shall
46 be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Majority
47 and Minority leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and
48 Majority and Minority leaders of the United States House of

1 Representatives, and each member of Congress elected from this
2 State.

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STATEMENT

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7 This concurrent resolution respectfully urges the United States
8 Congress to fully fund the expense of bringing the three Veterans
9 Memorial Homes owned and operated by the State of New Jersey
10 into compliance with the electronic health records provisions of the
11 “Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health
12 (HITECH) Act,” enacted as part of United States Public Law No.
13 111-5, the “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.”

14 The “HITECH Act” provides incentive payments through the
15 Medicare and Medicaid programs for health care facilities to meet
16 certain standards regarding the implementation of an electronic
17 health records system by the year 2014. The “HITECH Act”
18 provides that health care facilities that do not meet these standards
19 are subject to reduced Medicare payments starting in the year 2015.

20 The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
21 estimates that it will cost approximately \$2,500,000 to purchase the
22 hard equipment necessary to meet the standards set forth in the
23 “HITECH Act.” The necessary equipment includes hardware,
24 software, licensing fees, computers and a compatible computer
25 program for billing. In light of the current budgetary constraints in
26 New Jersey, the State will be unable to fund these expenses without
27 federal assistance.