

ASSEMBLY MILITARY AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 143

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 14, 2010

The Assembly Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee reports favorably Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 143.

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

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

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

This bill is identical to Senate Concurrent Resolution, No. 125 of 2010-2011.