

**52:31-39.1, Sec.2 Note to 52:31-42
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**

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LAWS OF: 2025 **CHAPTER:** 57

NJSA: 52:31-39.1, Sec.2 Note to 52:31-42 Designates State House Complex Welcome Center as "Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center."

BILL NO: S4170 (Substituted for A5467)

SPONSOR(S) Scutari, Nicholas P. and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 3/3/2025

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** --

SENATE: Budget & Appropriation

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 03/24/2025

SENATE: 03/24/2025

DATE OF APPROVAL: 5/9/2025

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (S4170 enacted)

ADVANCE LAW	Yes
PAMPHLET LAW	Yes

S4170

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement)	Yes
REPRINT(S):	No
TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL:	No
COMMITTEE STATEMENT: ASSEMBLY:	No
SENATE:	Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:	No
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:	No

A5467

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement)	Yes
REPRINT(S):	No
TECHNICAL REVIEW OF BILL:	No

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 57, *approved May 9, 2025*
Senate, No. 4170

1 **AN ACT** designating the State House Complex Welcome Center as
2 the “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center” and
3 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey State House Complex has a Welcome
6 Center wherein all visitors to the State House and State House
7 Annex are invited and welcomed; and
8 **WHEREAS**, It is entirely appropriate that the State House Complex
9 Welcome Center should be named in honor of Governor Richard J.
10 Codey who served as a member of the General Assembly, the
11 Senate, and as New Jersey’s 53rd Governor; and
12 **WHEREAS**, Governor Codey is New Jersey’s longest serving
13 legislator, having been elected to the General Assembly in
14 November of 1973 at just 27 years of age; and
15 **WHEREAS**, After serving for nearly a decade in the General Assembly,
16 Governor Codey served in the Senate from 1982 to 2024 and held
17 the highly esteemed position of Senate President from 2002 to
18 2010; and
19 **WHEREAS**, During his tenure as Senate President, Governor Codey
20 served as Acting Governor on multiple occasions and as New
21 Jersey’s 53rd Governor for 14 months after the resignation of
22 Governor James E. McGreevey in 2004, before returning to the
23 Senate; and
24 **WHEREAS**, Throughout his time as Acting Governor and in the
25 Legislature, Governor Codey was a strong advocate of
26 strengthening public health in many aspects; and
27 **WHEREAS**, Governor Codey’s health system improvement efforts
28 include increasing funding for mental health care, championing
29 stem cell research, establishing the State’s charity care program,
30 leading a ban on indoor smoking in all State buildings, and
31 establishing a prescription drug assistance program for seniors; and
32 **WHEREAS**, Governor Codey made strides in protecting the health of
33 the youth of New Jersey by increasing the age to legally purchase
34 tobacco to 21 and initiating drug and steroid testing for high school
35 athletes in New Jersey; and
36 **WHEREAS**, Governor Codey fought to make communities safer by
37 pushing for higher gun control standards, establishing GPS tracking
38 for sex offenders, and authoring laws aimed at cracking down on
39 internet predators; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Outside of Governor Codey’s public service, he has been
2 an active and beloved member of his community, coaching youth
3 basketball teams, mentoring first-generation college students, and
4 working as a funeral director; and

5 **WHEREAS**, After a long career faithfully serving the residents of this
6 State, Governor Codey retired from public service in January of
7 2024; and

8 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper that the State of New
9 Jersey recognize and honor Governor Codey’s service and
10 contributions by designating the State House Complex Welcome
11 Center as the “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center”; now,
12 therefore,

13
14 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
15 *of New Jersey:*

16
17 1. The State Capitol Joint Management Commission shall
18 designate the State House Complex Welcome Center as the
19 “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center.” The commission
20 shall erect appropriate signs bearing that designation.

21
22 2. The State Capitol Joint Management Commission is
23 authorized to accept public and private gifts, donations, and grants
24 for the purpose of funding the costs associated with producing,
25 purchasing, and erecting signs bearing the designation established
26 pursuant to section 1 of this act, P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
27 before the Legislature as this bill).

28
29 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

30
31

32 **STATEMENT**

33
34 This bill directs the State Capitol Joint Management Commission
35 to designate the State House Complex Welcome Center as the
36 “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center” in honor of the
37 distinguished services performed by Governor Codey during his
38 career in public service.

39 Governor Codey became New Jersey’s longest serving legislator
40 after being elected to the General Assembly in November of 1973 at
41 just 27 years of age. After serving for nearly a decade in the
42 General Assembly, Governor Codey served in the Senate from 1982
43 to 2024 and held the highly esteemed position of Senate President
44 from 2002 to 2010. During his tenure as Senate President,
45 Governor Codey served as Acting Governor on multiple occasions
46 and as New Jersey’s 53rd governor for 14 months after the
47 resignation of Governor James E. McGreevey in 2004, before
48 returning to the Senate.

1 Throughout his time as Acting Governor and in the Legislature,
2 Governor Codey was a strong advocate of strengthening public
3 health in many aspects. Governor Codey’s health system
4 improvement efforts include increasing funding for mental health
5 care, championing stem cell research, establishing the State’s
6 charity care program, leading a ban on indoor smoking in all State
7 buildings, and establishing a prescription drug assistance program
8 for seniors. Governor Codey made strides in protecting the health
9 of the youth of New Jersey by increasing the age to legally purchase
10 tobacco to 21 and initiating drug and steroid testing for high school
11 athletes in New Jersey. Governor Codey fought to make
12 communities safer by pushing for higher gun control standards,
13 establishing GPS tracking for sex offenders, and authoring laws
14 aimed at cracking down on internet predators.

15 Outside of Governor Codey’s public service, he has been an
16 active and beloved member of his community, coaching youth
17 basketball teams, mentoring first-generation college students, and
18 working as a funeral director. After a long career faithfully serving
19 the residents of this State, Governor Codey retired from public
20 service in January of 2024.

21 The State Capitol Joint Management Commission will erect
22 appropriate signs bearing the new welcome center designation. The
23 commission is authorized to accept public and private gifts,
24 donations, and grants for the purpose of funding the costs
25 associated with producing, purchasing, and erecting the signs.

26
27
28
29

30 Designates State House Complex Welcome Center as “Governor
31 Richard J. Codey Welcome Center.”

CHAPTER 57

AN ACT designating the State House Complex Welcome Center as the “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center” and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

WHEREAS, The New Jersey State House Complex has a Welcome Center wherein all visitors to the State House and State House Annex are invited and welcomed; and

WHEREAS, It is entirely appropriate that the State House Complex Welcome Center should be named in honor of Governor Richard J. Codey who served as a member of the General Assembly, the Senate, and as New Jersey’s 53rd Governor; and

WHEREAS, Governor Codey is New Jersey’s longest serving legislator, having been elected to the General Assembly in November of 1973 at just 27 years of age; and

WHEREAS, After serving for nearly a decade in the General Assembly, Governor Codey served in the Senate from 1982 to 2024 and held the highly esteemed position of Senate President from 2002 to 2010; and

WHEREAS, During his tenure as Senate President, Governor Codey served as Acting Governor on multiple occasions and as New Jersey’s 53rd Governor for 14 months after the resignation of Governor James E. McGreevey in 2004, before returning to the Senate; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his time as Acting Governor and in the Legislature, Governor Codey was a strong advocate of strengthening public health in many aspects; and

WHEREAS, Governor Codey’s health system improvement efforts include increasing funding for mental health care, championing stem cell research, establishing the State’s charity care program, leading a ban on indoor smoking in all State buildings, and establishing a prescription drug assistance program for seniors; and

WHEREAS, Governor Codey made strides in protecting the health of the youth of New Jersey by increasing the age to legally purchase tobacco to 21 and initiating drug and steroid testing for high school athletes in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Governor Codey fought to make communities safer by pushing for higher gun control standards, establishing GPS tracking for sex offenders, and authoring laws aimed at cracking down on internet predators; and

WHEREAS, Outside of Governor Codey’s public service, he has been an active and beloved member of his community, coaching youth basketball teams, mentoring first-generation college students, and working as a funeral director; and

WHEREAS, After a long career faithfully serving the residents of this State, Governor Codey retired from public service in January of 2024; and

WHEREAS, It is altogether fitting and proper that the State of New Jersey recognize and honor Governor Codey’s service and contributions by designating the State House Complex Welcome Center as the “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center”; now, therefore,

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

C.52:31-39.1 “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center.”

1. The State Capitol Joint Management Commission shall designate the State House Complex Welcome Center as the “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center.” The commission shall erect appropriate signs bearing that designation.

2. The State Capitol Joint Management Commission is authorized to accept public and private gifts, donations, and grants for the purpose of funding the costs associated with producing, purchasing, and erecting signs bearing the designation established pursuant to section 1 of this act, P.L.2025, c.57 (C.52:31-39.1).

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved May 9, 2025.

SENATE, No. 4170

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 2025

Sponsored by:

Senator NICHOLAS P. SCUTARI

District 22 (Somerset and Union)

Senator JOHN F. MCKEON

District 27 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ROSAURA "ROSY" BAGOLIE

District 27 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ALIXON COLLAZOS-GILL

District 27 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Diegnan and Assemblywoman Hall

SYNOPSIS

Designates State House Complex Welcome Center as “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/24/2025)

S4170 SCUTARI, MCKEON

2

1 **AN ACT** designating the State House Complex Welcome Center as
2 the “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center” and
3 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.
4

5 **WHEREAS**, The New Jersey State House Complex has a Welcome
6 Center wherein all visitors to the State House and State House
7 Annex are invited and welcomed; and

8 **WHEREAS**, It is entirely appropriate that the State House Complex
9 Welcome Center should be named in honor of Governor Richard J.
10 Codey who served as a member of the General Assembly, the
11 Senate, and as New Jersey’s 53rd Governor; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Governor Codey is New Jersey’s longest serving
13 legislator, having been elected to the General Assembly in
14 November of 1973 at just 27 years of age; and

15 **WHEREAS**, After serving for nearly a decade in the General Assembly,
16 Governor Codey served in the Senate from 1982 to 2024 and held
17 the highly esteemed position of Senate President from 2002 to
18 2010; and

19 **WHEREAS**, During his tenure as Senate President, Governor Codey
20 served as Acting Governor on multiple occasions and as New
21 Jersey’s 53rd Governor for 14 months after the resignation of
22 Governor James E. McGreevey in 2004, before returning to the
23 Senate; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Throughout his time as Acting Governor and in the
25 Legislature, Governor Codey was a strong advocate of
26 strengthening public health in many aspects; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Governor Codey’s health system improvement efforts
28 include increasing funding for mental health care, championing
29 stem cell research, establishing the State’s charity care program,
30 leading a ban on indoor smoking in all State buildings, and
31 establishing a prescription drug assistance program for seniors; and

32 **WHEREAS**, Governor Codey made strides in protecting the health of
33 the youth of New Jersey by increasing the age to legally purchase
34 tobacco to 21 and initiating drug and steroid testing for high school
35 athletes in New Jersey; and

36 **WHEREAS**, Governor Codey fought to make communities safer by
37 pushing for higher gun control standards, establishing GPS tracking
38 for sex offenders, and authoring laws aimed at cracking down on
39 internet predators; and

40 **WHEREAS**, Outside of Governor Codey’s public service, he has been
41 an active and beloved member of his community, coaching youth
42 basketball teams, mentoring first-generation college students, and
43 working as a funeral director; and

44 **WHEREAS**, After a long career faithfully serving the residents of this
45 State, Governor Codey retired from public service in January of
46 2024; and

47 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper that the State of New
48 Jersey recognize and honor Governor Codey’s service and

1 contributions by designating the State House Complex Welcome
2 Center as the “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center”; now,
3 therefore,

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

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8 1. The State Capitol Joint Management Commission shall
9 designate the State House Complex Welcome Center as the
10 “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center.” The commission
11 shall erect appropriate signs bearing that designation.

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13 2. The State Capitol Joint Management Commission is
14 authorized to accept public and private gifts, donations, and grants
15 for the purpose of funding the costs associated with producing,
16 purchasing, and erecting signs bearing the designation established
17 pursuant to section 1 of this act, P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
18 before the Legislature as this bill).

19
20 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

21
22
23 STATEMENT

24
25 This bill directs the State Capitol Joint Management Commission
26 to designate the State House Complex Welcome Center as the
27 “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center” in honor of the
28 distinguished services performed by Governor Codey during his
29 career in public service.

30 Governor Codey became New Jersey’s longest serving legislator
31 after being elected to the General Assembly in November of 1973 at
32 just 27 years of age. After serving for nearly a decade in the
33 General Assembly, Governor Codey served in the Senate from 1982
34 to 2024 and held the highly esteemed position of Senate President
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36 Governor Codey served as Acting Governor on multiple occasions
37 and as New Jersey’s 53rd governor for 14 months after the
38 resignation of Governor James E. McGreevey in 2004, before
39 returning to the Senate.

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42 health in many aspects. Governor Codey’s health system
43 improvement efforts include increasing funding for mental health
44 care, championing stem cell research, establishing the State’s
45 charity care program, leading a ban on indoor smoking in all State
46 buildings, and establishing a prescription drug assistance program
47 for seniors. Governor Codey made strides in protecting the health
48 of the youth of New Jersey by increasing the age to legally purchase

S4170 SCUTARI, MCKEON

4

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2 athletes in New Jersey. Governor Codey fought to make
3 communities safer by pushing for higher gun control standards,
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7 active and beloved member of his community, coaching youth
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9 working as a funeral director. After a long career faithfully serving
10 the residents of this State, Governor Codey retired from public
11 service in January of 2024.

12 The State Capitol Joint Management Commission will erect
13 appropriate signs bearing the new welcome center designation. The
14 commission is authorized to accept public and private gifts,
15 donations, and grants for the purpose of funding the costs
16 associated with producing, purchasing, and erecting the signs.

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 4170

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 17, 2025

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 4170.

As reported, this bill directs the State Capitol Joint Management Commission to designate the State House Complex Welcome Center as the “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center” in honor of the distinguished services performed by Governor Codey during his career in public service.

Governor Codey became New Jersey’s longest serving legislator after being elected to the General Assembly in November of 1973 at just 27 years of age. After serving for nearly a decade in the General Assembly, Governor Codey served in the Senate from 1982 to 2024 and held the highly esteemed position of Senate President from 2002 to 2010. During his tenure as Senate President, Governor Codey served as Acting Governor on multiple occasions and as New Jersey’s 53rd governor for 14 months after the resignation of Governor James E. McGreevey in 2004, before returning to the Senate.

Throughout his time as Acting Governor and in the Legislature, Governor Codey was a strong advocate of strengthening public health in many aspects. Governor Codey’s health system improvement efforts include increasing funding for mental health care, championing stem cell research, establishing the State’s charity care program, leading a ban on indoor smoking in all State buildings, and establishing a prescription drug assistance program for seniors. Governor Codey made strides in protecting the health of the youth of New Jersey by increasing the age to legally purchase tobacco to 21 and initiating drug and steroid testing for high school athletes in New Jersey. Governor Codey fought to make communities safer by pushing for higher gun control standards, establishing GPS tracking for sex offenders, and authoring laws aimed at cracking down on internet predators.

Outside of Governor Codey’s public service, he has been an active and beloved member of his community, coaching youth basketball teams, mentoring first-generation college students, and working as a funeral director. After a long career faithfully serving the residents of this State, Governor Codey retired from public service in January of 2024.

The State Capitol Joint Management Commission will erect appropriate signs bearing the new welcome center designation. The

commission is authorized to accept public and private gifts, donations, and grants for the purpose of funding the costs associated with producing, purchasing, and erecting the signs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

ASSEMBLY, No. 5467

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 17, 2025

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ROSAURA "ROSY" BAGOLIE

District 27 (Essex and Passaic)

Assemblywoman ALIXON COLLAZOS-GILL

District 27 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Hall

SYNOPSIS

Designates State House Complex Welcome Center as “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/24/2025)

A5467 BAGOLIE, COLLAZOS-GILL

2

1 AN ACT designating the State House Complex Welcome Center as
2 the “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center” and
3 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.
4

5 WHEREAS, The New Jersey State House Complex has a Welcome
6 Center wherein all visitors to the State House and State House
7 Annex are invited and welcomed; and

8 WHEREAS, It is entirely appropriate that the State House Complex
9 Welcome Center should be named in honor of Governor Richard J.
10 Codey who served as a member of the General Assembly, the
11 Senate, and as New Jersey’s 53rd Governor; and

12 WHEREAS, Governor Codey is New Jersey’s longest serving
13 legislator, having been elected to the General Assembly in
14 November of 1973 at just 27 years of age; and

15 WHEREAS, After serving for nearly a decade in the General Assembly,
16 Governor Codey served in the Senate from 1982 to 2024 and held
17 the highly esteemed position of Senate President from 2002 to
18 2010; and

19 WHEREAS, During his tenure as Senate President, Governor Codey
20 served as Acting Governor on multiple occasions and as New
21 Jersey’s 53rd Governor for 14 months after the resignation of
22 Governor James E. McGreevey in 2004, before returning to the
23 Senate; and

24 WHEREAS, Throughout his time as Acting Governor and in the
25 Legislature, Governor Codey was a strong advocate of
26 strengthening public health in many aspects; and

27 WHEREAS, Governor Codey’s health system improvement efforts
28 include increasing funding for mental health care, championing
29 stem cell research, establishing the State’s charity care program,
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33 the youth of New Jersey by increasing the age to legally purchase
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37 pushing for higher gun control standards, establishing GPS tracking
38 for sex offenders, and authoring laws aimed at cracking down on
39 internet predators; and

40 WHEREAS, Outside of Governor Codey’s public service, he has been
41 an active and beloved member of his community, coaching youth
42 basketball teams, mentoring first-generation college students, and
43 working as a funeral director; and

44 WHEREAS, After a long career faithfully serving the residents of this
45 State, Governor Codey retired from public service in January of
46 2024; and

47 WHEREAS, It is altogether fitting and proper that the State of New
48 Jersey recognize and honor Governor Codey’s service and

1 contributions by designating the State House Complex Welcome
2 Center as the “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center”; now,
3 therefore,

4

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

7

8 1. The State Capitol Joint Management Commission shall
9 designate the State House Complex Welcome Center as the
10 “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center.” The commission
11 shall erect appropriate signs bearing that designation.

12

13 2. The State Capitol Joint Management Commission is
14 authorized to accept public and private gifts, donations, and grants
15 for the purpose of funding the costs associated with producing,
16 purchasing, and erecting signs bearing the designation established
17 pursuant to section 1 of this act, P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
18 before the Legislature as this bill).

19

20 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

21

22

23

STATEMENT

24

25 This bill directs the State Capitol Joint Management Commission
26 to designate the State House Complex Welcome Center as the
27 “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center” in honor of the
28 distinguished services performed by Governor Codey during his
29 career in public service.

30 Governor Codey became New Jersey’s longest serving legislator
31 after being elected to the General Assembly in November of 1973 at
32 just 27 years of age. After serving for nearly a decade in the
33 General Assembly, Governor Codey served in the Senate from 1982
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42 health in many aspects. Governor Codey’s health system
43 improvement efforts include increasing funding for mental health
44 care, championing stem cell research, establishing the State’s
45 charity care program, leading a ban on indoor smoking in all State
46 buildings, and establishing a prescription drug assistance program
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A5467 BAGOLIE, COLLAZOS-GILL

4

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2 athletes in New Jersey. Governor Codey fought to make
3 communities safer by pushing for higher gun control standards,
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9 working as a funeral director. After a long career faithfully serving
10 the residents of this State, Governor Codey retired from public
11 service in January of 2024.

12 The State Capitol Joint Management Commission will erect
13 appropriate signs bearing the new welcome center designation. The
14 commission is authorized to accept public and private gifts,
15 donations, and grants for the purpose of funding the costs
16 associated with producing, purchasing, and erecting the signs.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 5467

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 20, 2025

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5467.

As reported, this bill directs the State Capitol Joint Management Commission to designate the State House Complex Welcome Center as the “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center” in honor of the distinguished services performed by Governor Codey during his career in public service.

Governor Codey became New Jersey’s longest serving legislator after being elected to the General Assembly in November of 1973 at just 27 years of age. After serving for nearly a decade in the General Assembly, Governor Codey served in the Senate from 1982 to 2024 and held the highly esteemed position of Senate President from 2002 to 2010. During his tenure as Senate President, Governor Codey served as Acting Governor on multiple occasions and as New Jersey’s 53rd governor for 14 months after the resignation of Governor James E. McGreevey in 2004, before returning to the Senate.

Throughout his time as Acting Governor and in the Legislature, Governor Codey was a strong advocate of strengthening public health in many aspects. Governor Codey’s health system improvement efforts include increasing funding for mental health care, championing stem cell research, establishing the State’s charity care program, leading a ban on indoor smoking in all State buildings, and establishing a prescription drug assistance program for seniors. Governor Codey made strides in protecting the health of the youth of New Jersey by increasing the age to legally purchase tobacco to 21 and initiating drug and steroid testing for high school athletes in New Jersey. Governor Codey fought to make communities safer by pushing for higher gun control standards, establishing GPS tracking for sex offenders, and authoring laws aimed at cracking down on internet predators.

Outside of Governor Codey’s public service, he has been an active and beloved member of his community, coaching youth basketball teams, mentoring first-generation college students, and working as a funeral director. After a long career faithfully serving the residents of this State, Governor Codey retired from public service in January of 2024.

The State Capitol Joint Management Commission will erect appropriate signs bearing the new welcome center designation. The commission is authorized to accept public and private gifts, donations, and grants for the purpose of funding the costs associated with producing, purchasing, and erecting the signs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

Governor Phil Murphy Signs Legislation Designating the Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center at the New Jersey State House

Posted on - 05/9/2025

Center Honors Former Governor Codey's Legacy of Service and Lasting Impact on New Jersey

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today signed S4170/A5467, designating the New Jersey State House Complex Welcome Center as the “Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center.” This designation honors former Governor Codey’s accomplishments in Trenton, as well as his legacy of service and advocacy for the people of New Jersey.

“I am honored to sign this legislation today recognizing former Governor Codey’s lifelong career in public service and his continued contributions to the great state of New Jersey,” **said Governor Murphy**. “A true champion for our residents, Governor Codey’s commitment to uplifting New Jerseyans and advancing our state has left an indelible impact. The Governor Richard J. Codey Welcome Center will serve as a daily reminder of his legacy and inspire all who enter the State House for years to come.”

“Meeting people from all walks of life was one of the greatest joys of my career these past 50 years,” **said former Governor Richard Codey**. “Listening to their stories and sharing in their experiences shaped the public servant I became, so I am deeply honored to be there in name as generations are welcomed to the heart of New Jersey’s government.”

After being elected to the New Jersey General Assembly at just 27 years old, Governor Codey went on to serve in the Legislature for 50 years and became the longest serving legislator in state history. His career in public service included ten years as Senate President and 14 months as the 53rd Governor of New Jersey following Governor McGreevey’s resignation in 2004. Former Governor Codey remained in the Senate until his retirement in January of 2024.

During his time in office, Governor Codey was a fierce leader on issues including public health, affordability, and gun safety. Outside of his professional roles, Governor Codey has remained a beloved and involved member of his community by coaching youth basketball, mentoring first-generation college students, and working as a funeral director.

Today’s legislation provides that the State Capitol Joint Management Commission will erect appropriate signage bearing the new designation. The Commission may accept gifts, donations, and grants to cover costs associated with producing, purchasing, and erecting the signs.

"It's fitting that the facility welcoming visitors to the center of State Government in New Jersey is named after Governor Codey," **said Senate President Scutari**. "Dick Codey gained legendary status as a consummate public servant with a down-to-earth personality who always put the needs of the public he served first. With his distinguished career as the longest serving legislator in state history, as Senate President and as Governor, Dick Codey has a record of accomplishment that continues to benefit the people of New Jersey."

"A stalwart in the Legislature and a steady hand in the Governor's Office, Dick Codey has long represented the very best of public service and it is only fitting that the new Welcome Center here at the State House bear the name of someone who devoted their life to making government work for the people," **said Speaker Coughlin**. "For 50 years, Governor Codey led with integrity, compassion, and an unshakable belief in doing what's right. This designation ensures that every visitor to the State House is reminded of that legacy."

The primary sponsors of S4170/A5467 are Senate President Scutari, Senator McKeon, Assemblywoman Bagolie, and Assemblywoman Collazos-Gill.

"Governor Codey had a unique and successful career as a public official who always put the needs of the people of New Jersey first," **said Senator McKeon, who succeeded Codey as a Senator**. "He was compassionate and caring, using his influence to help the disadvantaged, those struggling with adversity, suffering illnesses, or experiencing challenges in their lives. Dick Codey was one of the most accomplished and popular elected leaders the state has known. I am proud to call him my mentor and my friend."

"Governor Codey's decades of public service were marked by integrity, compassion, and a deep commitment to mental health reform, ethical leadership, and doing right by the people he served," **said Assemblywoman Bagolie**. "Naming this welcome center in his honor is a fitting tribute to a man who has always welcomed the people of New Jersey with open arms and an open heart. Thanks to this new law, every visitor who walks through these doors will be reminded of Governor Codey's unwavering dedication to making our state more just, more humane, and more hopeful."

"I can think of no better way to honor Governor Richard J. Codey's dedicated service than by naming the State House Complex Welcome Center after him. From mentoring students to advocating tirelessly for mental health reform, he always placed others at the center of his work," **said Assemblywoman Collazos-Gill**. "During his many years in state government, Governor Codey was tirelessly committed to protecting New Jersey's youth and vulnerable populations. We as a state are better because of his time in office and this law is a tremendous way to pay tribute to a legislator who has always supported the people of this state."