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FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: Yes

"Christie in New Jersey for Goya foods event, bill signing," Associated Press: Neptune Metro Area, 4-29-15

"Christie signs two bills aimed at substance abuse," northjersey.com, 4-29-15

"Gov. Christie arrives in New Brunswick to sign bills, take questions from reporters for the first time in four months," Daily Targum, The Rutgers University of New Jersey, 4-30-15

"New laws target prescription drug, opioid abuse," The Record, 4-30-15

"Governor signs legislation to fight abuse, addiction," Wayne Today, 5-14-15

LAW/RWH

P.L.2015, CHAPTER 34, *approved April 29, 2015*
Senate, No. 2372 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning controlled dangerous substances and amending
2 P.L.1970, c.226.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 31 of P.L.1970, c.226 (C.24:21-31) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 31. Powers of enforcement personnel. a. (1) It is hereby made
10 the duty of the division, its officers, agents, inspectors, and
11 representatives, and of all peace officers within the State, and of the
12 Attorney General and all county prosecutors, to enforce all
13 provisions of P.L.1970, c.226 (C.24:21-1 et seq.), as amended and
14 supplemented, except those specifically delegated, and to cooperate
15 with all agencies charged with the enforcement of the laws of the
16 United States, of this State, and of all other states, relating to
17 narcotic drugs or controlled dangerous substances, and it shall be
18 the duty of the New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy ¹and other
19 professional licensing boards¹ in the Division of Consumer Affairs
20 in the Department of Law and Public Safety, ¹**["its] and their**¹
21 officers, agents, inspectors, and representatives also to assist the
22 division, peace officers, and county prosecutors in the enforcement
23 of all provisions of P.L.1970, c.226, as amended and supplemented,
24 relating to the handling of controlled dangerous substances by
25 pharmacy owners and pharmacists ¹and other licensed
26 professionals¹.

27 (2) ¹**["(a) Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (1) of this**
28 **subsection, the]** The¹ Attorney General shall ¹**["establish a**
29 **Statewide Opioid Law Enforcement Coordinating Task Force**
30 **within the Department of Law and Public Safety, which shall have**
31 **as its purpose]** coordinate and direct the Statewide efforts of law
32 enforcement agencies, the Division of Consumer Affairs, and
33 professional licensing boards¹ to: identify, investigate, and
34 prosecute the illegal sources and distribution of prescription opioid
35 drugs; ¹take appropriate steps to enhance the oversight by
36 professional licensing boards relating to the administration and
37 dispensing of controlled dangerous substances by regulated
38 professionals;¹ ¹and provide training for law enforcement officials
39 ¹**[".] and recommend training for**¹ physicians, pharmacists, and
40 other health care professionals in state-of-the-art methods to detect
41 prescription drug diversion and related abuses. ¹The Attorney

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **["thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SHH committee amendments adopted October 9, 2014.

1 General shall issue appropriate directives, establish such task
2 forces, and implement such other measures as the Attorney General
3 deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this paragraph, and
4 may call to his assistance the services of employees of any State,
5 county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or
6 agency as may be required and as may be available for these
7 purposes.¹

8 (b) ¹【The task force shall include: the First Assistant Attorney
9 General, who shall serve as chair of the task force; the Director of
10 the Division of Consumer Affairs, the Director of the Division of
11 Criminal Justice, the Director of the New Jersey State Board of
12 Pharmacy, the Director of the State Board of Medical Examiners,
13 the Director of the New Jersey Board of Nursing, and the Director
14 of the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry, or their designated
15 representatives; at least one representative each from county
16 prosecutors', sheriffs', and local law enforcement agencies; and any
17 representatives of federal law enforcement agencies that are
18 available and are invited by the Attorney General to serve on the
19 task force.

20 (c) The task force shall report at least quarterly to the Attorney
21 General on its activities, and shall include in that report any
22 recommendations that it deems necessary to fulfill its purposes.】
23 The Attorney General shall report annually to the Governor and,
24 pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c. 164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
25 Legislature, on the Attorney General's activities in implementing
26 this subsection, including: the coordination of the Statewide effort
27 by various agencies to combat opioid abuse; and progress in efforts
28 to investigate and prosecute the illegal sources and distribution of
29 illegal opioid drugs.¹

30 b. Authority is hereby granted to the director:

31 (1) To promulgate all necessary rules and regulations for the
32 efficient enforcement of P.L.1970, c.226, as amended and
33 supplemented;

34 (2) To promulgate, insofar as applicable, regulations from time
35 to time promulgated by the Attorney General of the United States;

36 (3) To promulgate an order relative to any controlled dangerous
37 substance under P.L.1970, c.226, as amended and supplemented,
38 when the delay occasioned by acting through promulgation of a
39 regulation would constitute an imminent danger to the public health
40 or safety.

41 (a) An order of the director shall take effect immediately, but it
42 shall expire 270 days after promulgation thereof. Rules and
43 regulations pursuant to such order may be adopted and promulgated
44 by the director, but they shall not take effect until **【he】** the director
45 has given due notice of his intention to take such action and has
46 held a public hearing.

47 (b) Any person who denies that a drug or pharmaceutical
48 preparation is properly subject to an order by the director which

1 applies the provisions of P.L.1970, c.226, as amended and
2 supplemented, to **such** that drug or pharmaceutical preparation,
3 may apply to the director for a hearing which **must** shall be
4 afforded, except where a drug or pharmaceutical preparation has
5 been the subject of a prior hearing or determination by the director,
6 in which case a hearing shall be discretionary with the director. In
7 **such** that case, a decision **must** shall be rendered by the
8 director or **his** the director's designee within 48 hours of the
9 request for a hearing. If the petitioning party is aggrieved by the
10 decision, **he** that party shall have the right to apply for injunctive
11 relief against the order. Jurisdiction for **such** that injunctive
12 relief shall be in the Superior Court of New Jersey by way of
13 summary proceedings.

14 c. In addition to the powers set forth in subsection a. of this
15 section, any officer or employee of the division designated by the
16 director may:

17 (1) Execute search warrants, arrest warrants, administrative
18 inspection warrants, subpoenas, and summonses issued under the
19 authority of this State;

20 (2) Make seizures of property pursuant to the provisions of **this**
21 act P.L.1970, c.226, as amended and supplemented; and

22 (3) Perform such other law enforcement duties as may be
23 designated by the director, with the approval of the Attorney
24 General.

25 (cf: P.L.2007, c.244, s.16)

26

27 ¹2. Section 34 of P.L.1970, c.226 (C.24:21-34) is amended to
28 read as follows:

29 34. Cooperative arrangements. a. The director may cooperate
30 with federal and other State , county, and municipal law
31 enforcement and other agencies in discharging his responsibilities
32 concerning traffic in dangerous substances and in suppressing the
33 abuse of dangerous substances , including but not limited to
34 prescription opioid drugs. To this end, he is authorized to:

35 (1) Except as otherwise provided by law, arrange for the
36 exchange of information between government officials concerning
37 the use and abuse of dangerous substances; provided, however, that
38 in no case shall any officer having knowledge by virtue of his office
39 of any such prescription, order or record divulge such knowledge,
40 except in connection with a prosecution or proceeding in court or
41 before a licensing board or officer to which prosecution or
42 proceeding the person to whom the records relate, is a party;

43 (2) Coordinate and cooperate in training programs on dangerous
44 substances law enforcement at the local and State levels;

45 (3) Conduct programs of eradication aimed at destroying wild or
46 illicit growth of plant species from which controlled dangerous
47 substances may be extracted.

1 b. Results, information, and evidence received from the Drug
2 Enforcement Administration relating to the regulatory functions of
3 P.L.1970, c.226 (C.24:21-1 et seq.), as amended and supplemented,
4 including results of inspections conducted by that agency, may be
5 relied upon and acted upon by the director in conformance with his
6 regulatory functions under P.L.1970, c.226, as amended and
7 supplemented.¹
8 (cf: P.L.2007, c.244, s.18)

9

10 ¹**[2.]** 3.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

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15 _____
16 Authorizes Attorney General to coordinate Statewide law
enforcement efforts against opioid drug abuse.

SENATE, No. 2372

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

Sponsored by:

Senator FRED H. MADDEN, JR.

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Senator STEVEN V. OROHO

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Vitale, Lesniak and Addiego

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Statewide Opioid Law Enforcement Coordinating Task Force.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/10/2014)

S2372 MADDEN, OROHO

2

1 AN ACT concerning controlled dangerous substances and amending
2 P.L.1970, c.226.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 31 of P.L.1970, c.226 (C.24:21-31) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 31. Powers of enforcement personnel. a. (1) It is hereby made
10 the duty of the division, its officers, agents, inspectors, and
11 representatives, and of all peace officers within the State, and of the
12 Attorney General and all county prosecutors, to enforce all
13 provisions of P.L.1970, c.226 (C.24:21-1 et seq.), as amended and
14 supplemented, except those specifically delegated, and to cooperate
15 with all agencies charged with the enforcement of the laws of the
16 United States, of this State, and of all other states, relating to
17 narcotic drugs or controlled dangerous substances, and it shall be
18 the duty of the New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy in the Division
19 of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety,
20 its officers, agents, inspectors, and representatives also to assist the
21 division, peace officers, and county prosecutors in the enforcement
22 of all provisions of P.L.1970, c.226, as amended and supplemented,
23 relating to the handling of controlled dangerous substances by
24 pharmacy owners and pharmacists.

25 (2) (a) Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (1) of this
26 subsection, the Attorney General shall establish a Statewide Opioid
27 Law Enforcement Coordinating Task Force within the Department
28 of Law and Public Safety, which shall have as its purpose to:
29 identify, investigate, and prosecute the illegal sources and
30 distribution of prescription opioid drugs; and provide training for
31 law enforcement officials, physicians, pharmacists, and other health
32 care professionals in state-of-the-art methods to detect prescription
33 drug diversion and related abuses.

34 (b) The task force shall include: the First Assistant Attorney
35 General, who shall serve as chair of the task force; the Director of
36 the Division of Consumer Affairs, the Director of the Division of
37 Criminal Justice, the Director of the New Jersey State Board of
38 Pharmacy, the Director of the State Board of Medical Examiners,
39 the Director of the New Jersey Board of Nursing, and the Director
40 of the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry, or their designated
41 representatives; at least one representative each from county
42 prosecutors', sheriffs', and local law enforcement agencies; and any
43 representatives of federal law enforcement agencies that are
44 available and are invited by the Attorney General to serve on the
45 task force.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 (c) The task force shall report at least quarterly to the Attorney
2 General on its activities, and shall include in that report any
3 recommendations that it deems necessary to fulfill its purposes.

4 b. Authority is hereby granted to the director:

5 (1) To promulgate all necessary rules and regulations for the
6 efficient enforcement of P.L.1970, c.226, as amended and
7 supplemented;

8 (2) To promulgate, insofar as applicable, regulations from time
9 to time promulgated by the Attorney General of the United States;

10 (3) To promulgate an order relative to any controlled dangerous
11 substance under P.L.1970, c.226, as amended and supplemented,
12 when the delay occasioned by acting through promulgation of a
13 regulation would constitute an imminent danger to the public health
14 or safety.

15 (a) An order of the director shall take effect immediately, but it
16 shall expire 270 days after promulgation thereof. Rules and
17 regulations pursuant to such order may be adopted and promulgated
18 by the director, but they shall not take effect until **[he]** the director
19 has given due notice of his intention to take such action and has
20 held a public hearing.

21 (b) Any person who denies that a drug or pharmaceutical
22 preparation is properly subject to an order by the director which
23 applies the provisions of P.L.1970, c.226, as amended and
24 supplemented, to **[such]** that drug or pharmaceutical preparation,
25 may apply to the director for a hearing which **[must]** shall be
26 afforded, except where a drug or pharmaceutical preparation has
27 been the subject of a prior hearing or determination by the director,
28 in which case a hearing shall be discretionary with the director. In
29 **[such]** that case, a decision **[must]** shall be rendered by the
30 director or **[his]** the director's designee within 48 hours of the
31 request for a hearing. If the petitioning party is aggrieved by the
32 decision, **[he]** that party shall have the right to apply for injunctive
33 relief against the order. Jurisdiction for **[such]** that injunctive
34 relief shall be in the Superior Court of New Jersey by way of
35 summary proceedings.

36 c. In addition to the powers set forth in subsection a. of this
37 section, any officer or employee of the division designated by the
38 director may:

39 (1) Execute search warrants, arrest warrants, administrative
40 inspection warrants, subpoenas, and summonses issued under the
41 authority of this State;

42 (2) Make seizures of property pursuant to the provisions of **[this**
43 **act]** P.L.1970, c.226, as amended and supplemented; and

44 (3) Perform such other law enforcement duties as may be
45 designated by the director, with the approval of the Attorney
46 General.

47 (cf: P.L.2007, c.244, s.16)

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

6

7 This bill requires the Attorney General to establish a Statewide
8 Opioid Law Enforcement Coordinating Task Force within the
9 Department of Law and Public Safety, implementing the third
10 recommendation of the State Commission of Investigation's July
11 2013 report, "Scenes from an Epidemic."

12 The purpose of this bill is to strengthen federal, State, county,
13 and local law enforcement efforts relating to opioid drugs.
14 Although federal, State, county, and local law enforcement
15 resources currently exist to appropriately investigate these cases,
16 coordination of those resources is not always effective in combating
17 drug diversion.

18 The task force will have as its purpose to: identify, investigate,
19 and prosecute the illegal sources and distribution of prescription
20 opioid drugs; and provide training for law enforcement officials,
21 physicians, pharmacists, and other health care professionals in state-
22 of-the-art methods to detect prescription drug diversion and related
23 abuses.

24 The task force is to include: the First Assistant Attorney
25 General, who is to serve as chair of the task force; the Director of
26 the Division of Consumer Affairs, the Director of the Division of
27 Criminal Justice, the Director of the New Jersey State Board of
28 Pharmacy, the Director of the State Board of Medical Examiners,
29 the Director of the New Jersey Board of Nursing, and the Director
30 of the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry, or their designated
31 representatives; at least one representative each from county
32 prosecutors', sheriffs', and local law enforcement agencies; and any
33 representatives of federal law enforcement agencies that are
34 available and are invited by the Attorney General to serve on the
35 task force.

36 The task force is to report at least quarterly to the Attorney
37 General on its activities, and to include in that report any
38 recommendations that it deems necessary to fulfill its purposes.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 2372

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 9, 2014

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably and with amendments Senate Bill No. 2372.

As amended by the committee, the bill authorizes the Attorney General to coordinate and direct the Statewide efforts of law enforcement agencies, the Division of Consumer Affairs, and professional licensing boards to: identify, investigate, and prosecute the illegal sources and distribution of prescription opioid drugs; take appropriate steps to enhance the oversight by professional licensing boards relating to the administration and dispensing of controlled dangerous substances by regulated professionals; and provide training for law enforcement officials and recommend training for physicians, pharmacists, and other health care professionals in state-of-the-art methods to detect prescription drug diversion and related abuses. The Attorney general would be required to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on his activities in implementing the bill.

The committee amended the bill to eliminate the Statewide Opioid Law Enforcement Task Force, which would have been established by the bill as it was introduced, assigning its functions instead to the Attorney General. The amendments also clarify that the Attorney General may issue appropriate directives, establish task forces, and implement other measures as he deems necessary to carry out his duties under the bill, and allows him to call to his assistance the services of employees of any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as may be required and as may be available for these purposes.

ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2372

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 16, 2015

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2372 (1R).

Senate Bill No. 2372 (1R) requires the Attorney General to coordinate and direct the Statewide efforts of law enforcement agencies, the Division of Consumer Affairs, and professional licensing boards to: identify, investigate, and prosecute the illegal sources and distribution of prescription opioid drugs; take appropriate steps to enhance the oversight by professional licensing boards relating to the administration and dispensing of controlled dangerous substances by regulated professionals; and provide training to law enforcement officials and recommend training for physicians, pharmacists, and other health care professionals in state-of-the-art methods to detect prescription drug diversion and related abuses. The Attorney General is required to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on his activities in implementing the bill.

As introduced, the bill required the Attorney General to establish a Statewide Opioid Law Enforcement Coordinating Task Force. The amended bill eliminates the provision establishing the Statewide Opioid Law Enforcement Task Force, and assigns the task force's functions to the Attorney General. The amended bill also clarifies that the Attorney General may issue appropriate directives, establish task forces, and implement other measures he deems necessary to carry out his duties. In addition, the Attorney General may call to his assistance the services of employees of any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency as may be required to fulfill the requirements under the amended bill.

As reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1436, which also was amended and reported by the committee on this same date.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1436

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2014 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman MARLENE CARIDE

District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman GABRIELA M. MOSQUERA

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman NANCY J. PINKIN

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblymen Space, Johnson, Assemblywoman N.Munoz, Assemblymen
O'Scanlon, Rible and Danielsen**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Statewide Opioid Law Enforcement Coordinating Task Force.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/17/2015)

1 AN ACT concerning controlled dangerous substances and amending
2 P.L.1970, c.226.

3

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

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7 1. Section 31 of P.L.1970, c.226 (C.24:21-31) is amended to
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9 31. Powers of enforcement personnel. a. (1) It is hereby made
10 the duty of the division, its officers, agents, inspectors, and
11 representatives, and of all peace officers within the State, and of the
12 Attorney General and all county prosecutors, to enforce all
13 provisions of P.L.1970, c.226 (C.24:21-1 et seq.), as amended and
14 supplemented, except those specifically delegated, and to cooperate
15 with all agencies charged with the enforcement of the laws of the
16 United States, of this State, and of all other states, relating to
17 narcotic drugs or controlled dangerous substances, and it shall be
18 the duty of the New Jersey State Board of Pharmacy in the Division
19 of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety,
20 its officers, agents, inspectors, and representatives also to assist the
21 division, peace officers, and county prosecutors in the enforcement
22 of all provisions of P.L.1970, c.226, as amended and supplemented,
23 relating to the handling of controlled dangerous substances by
24 pharmacy owners and pharmacists.

25 (2) (a) Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (1) of this
26 subsection, the Attorney General shall establish a Statewide Opioid
27 Law Enforcement Coordinating Task Force within the Department
28 of Law and Public Safety, which shall have as its purpose to:
29 identify, investigate, and prosecute the illegal sources and
30 distribution of prescription opioid drugs; and provide training for
31 law enforcement officials, physicians, pharmacists, and other health
32 care professionals in state-of-the-art methods to detect prescription
33 drug diversion and related abuses.

34 (b) The task force shall include: the First Assistant Attorney
35 General, who shall serve as chair of the task force; the Director of
36 the Division of Consumer Affairs, the Director of the Division of
37 Criminal Justice, the Director of the New Jersey State Board of
38 Pharmacy, the Director of the State Board of Medical Examiners,
39 the Director of the New Jersey Board of Nursing, and the Director
40 of the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry, or their designated
41 representatives; at least one representative each from county
42 prosecutors', sheriffs', and local law enforcement agencies; and any
43 representatives of federal law enforcement agencies that are
44 available and are invited by the Attorney General to serve on the
45 task force.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 (c) The task force shall report at least quarterly to the Attorney
2 General on its activities, and shall include in that report any
3 recommendations that it deems necessary to fulfill its purposes.

4 b. Authority is hereby granted to the director:

5 (1) To promulgate all necessary rules and regulations for the
6 efficient enforcement of P.L.1970, c.226, as amended and
7 supplemented;

8 (2) To promulgate, insofar as applicable, regulations from time
9 to time promulgated by the Attorney General of the United States;

10 (3) To promulgate an order relative to any controlled dangerous
11 substance under P.L.1970, c.226, as amended and supplemented,
12 when the delay occasioned by acting through promulgation of a
13 regulation would constitute an imminent danger to the public health
14 or safety.

15 (a) An order of the director shall take effect immediately, but it
16 shall expire 270 days after promulgation thereof. Rules and
17 regulations pursuant to such order may be adopted and promulgated
18 by the director, but they shall not take effect until **【he】** the director
19 has given due notice of his intention to take such action and has
20 held a public hearing.

21 (b) Any person who denies that a drug or pharmaceutical
22 preparation is properly subject to an order by the director which
23 applies the provisions of P.L.1970, c.226, as amended and
24 supplemented, to **【such】** that drug or pharmaceutical preparation,
25 may apply to the director for a hearing which **【must】** shall be
26 afforded, except where a drug or pharmaceutical preparation has
27 been the subject of a prior hearing or determination by the director,
28 in which case a hearing shall be discretionary with the director. In
29 **【such】** that case, a decision **【must】** shall be rendered by the
30 director or **【his】** the director's designee within 48 hours of the
31 request for a hearing. If the petitioning party is aggrieved by the
32 decision, **【he】** that party shall have the right to apply for injunctive
33 relief against the order. Jurisdiction for **【such】** that injunctive
34 relief shall be in the Superior Court of New Jersey by way of
35 summary proceedings.

36 c. In addition to the powers set forth in subsection a. of this
37 section, any officer or employee of the division designated by the
38 director may:

39 (1) Execute search warrants, arrest warrants, administrative
40 inspection warrants, subpoenas, and summonses issued under the
41 authority of this State;

42 (2) Make seizures of property pursuant to the provisions of **【this**
43 **act】** P.L.1970, c.226, as amended and supplemented; and

44 (3) Perform such other law enforcement duties as may be
45 designated by the director, with the approval of the Attorney
46 General.

47 (cf: P.L.2007, c.244, s.16)

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

4

STATEMENT

5

6 This bill requires the Attorney General to establish a Statewide
7 Opioid Law Enforcement Coordinating Task Force within the
8 Department of Law and Public Safety, implementing the third
9 recommendation of the State Commission of Investigation's July
10 2013 report, "Scenes from an Epidemic."

11 The purpose of this bill is to strengthen federal, State, county,
12 and local law enforcement efforts relating to opioid drugs.
13 Although federal, State, county, and local law enforcement
14 resources currently exist to appropriately investigate these cases,
15 coordination of those resources is not always effective in combating
16 drug diversion.

17 The task force will have as its purpose to: identify, investigate,
18 and prosecute the illegal sources and distribution of prescription
19 opioid drugs; and provide training for law enforcement officials,
20 physicians, pharmacists, and other health care professionals in state-
21 of-the-art methods to detect prescription drug diversion and related
22 abuses.

23 The task force is to include: the First Assistant Attorney
24 General, who is to serve as chair of the task force; the Director of
25 the Division of Consumer Affairs, the Director of the Division of
26 Criminal Justice, the Director of the New Jersey State Board of
27 Pharmacy, the Director of the State Board of Medical Examiners,
28 the Director of the New Jersey Board of Nursing, and the Director
29 of the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry, or their designated
30 representatives; at least one representative each from county
31 prosecutors', sheriffs', and local law enforcement agencies; and any
32 representatives of federal law enforcement agencies that are
33 available and are invited by the Attorney General to serve on the
34 task force.

35 The task force is to report at least quarterly to the Attorney
36 General on its activities, and to include in that report any
37 recommendations that it deems necessary to fulfill its purposes.

ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1436

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 16, 2015

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 1436.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 1436, authorizes the Attorney General to coordinate and direct the Statewide efforts of law enforcement agencies, the Division of Consumer Affairs, and professional licensing boards to: identify, investigate, and prosecute the illegal sources and distribution of prescription opioid drugs; take appropriate steps to enhance the oversight by professional licensing boards relating to the administration and dispensing of controlled dangerous substances by regulated professionals; and provide training for law enforcement officials and recommend training for physicians, pharmacists, and other health care professionals in state-of-the-art methods to detect prescription drug diversion and related abuses. The Attorney general would be required to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature on his activities in implementing the bill.

As introduced, the bill required the Attorney General to establish a Statewide Opioid Law Enforcement Coordinating Task Force. The committee amendments eliminate the provision establishing the Statewide Opioid Law Enforcement Task Force, and assign the task force's functions to the Attorney General. The amendments also clarify that the Attorney General may issue appropriate directives, establish task forces, and implement other measures as he deems necessary to carry out his duties. In addition, the Attorney General may call to his assistance the services of employees of any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency may be required to fulfill the requirements established by the amended bill.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 2372 (1R), also reported by the committee on this same date.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2014-2015 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments:

(1) eliminate the provision establishing the Statewide Opioid Law Enforcement Task Force, and assign its functions to the Attorney General; and

(2) clarify that the Attorney General may implement measures as he deems necessary to carry out his duties and call to his assistance the services of employees of any State, county, or municipal department, board, bureau, commission, or agency.

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Governor Christie Signs Legislation to Bolster Efforts to Fight Drug Abuse and Addiction in New Jersey

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State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Measures Provide Stronger Tools to Help Prevent Prescription Medicine and Opioid Abuse

Trenton, NJ – Taking action to support New Jerseyans and their families faced with the disease of addiction, Governor Chris Christie today signed legislative measures to enhance the State's Project Medicine Drop program and to strengthen the Attorney General's law enforcement coordination efforts against opioid drug abuse.

"I'm proud of what we've done in New Jersey and proud of the work that we continue to do together to help people reclaim their lives. But we cannot become complacent," said Governor Christie. "Today, we are taking further action to keep our fight against drug abuse and addiction going strong. We're doing this by continuing successful programs like Project Medicine Drop to get unused prescriptions out of the medicine cabinet and into drop-off bins as well as fortifying our coordinated efforts against the scourge of opioid abuse in an effort to save more lives."

A-2859 advances the continuation of the Department of Law & Public Safety's (L&PS) existing Project Medicine Drop program. In addition, the bill provides for future expansion of the program at the funding discretion of the Department. Furthermore, L&PS is required to post on its website a list of all secure prescription medicine drop-off locations, including receptacles maintained by the Division of Consumer Affairs, as well as any receptacle located in New Jersey that is approved by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

Project Medicine Drop, an initiative of L&PS' Division of Consumer Affairs, provides residents with a safe and secure way to dispose of unneeded medications through "prescription drug drop boxes" located at law enforcement agencies usually comprised of police departments, sheriff's offices, and State Police barracks across the Garden State.

Currently, there are 126 Project Medicine Drop locations across the state with approximately 50 having mobile boxes for special off-site collection events. Since its creation in November 2011, New Jersey residents have dropped off approximately 53,924 pounds or nearly 27 tons of unused medications.

Primary sponsors of A-2859 include: Assemblymembers Eustace, Benson, Vainieri-Huttel Lagana, and Caride and Senators Whelan and Kean.

→ Governor Christie also signed S-2372, which gives the Attorney General the ability to coordinate statewide law enforcement efforts against opioid abuse in the Garden State. These coordination activities include the Division of Consumer Affairs and professional licensing boards in identifying, investigating, and prosecuting the illegal sources and distribution of prescription opioid drugs; taking appropriate steps to enhance the oversight by professional licensing boards; and providing training to law enforcement officials, physicians, and pharmacists.

Among activities already being coordinated is the implementation and training of NARCAN administration. To date, 496 law enforcement agencies have been trained in Narcan administration with 488 agencies currently carrying Narcan on patrol. Overall, nearly 900 overdoses have been reversed through successful naloxone deployment. Additionally, the state's Prescription Monitoring Program (NJPMP) continues to advance. As of April, 88.4% of the state's 29,400 licensed doctors had registered to use the NJPMP database.

Primary sponsors of the legislation include Senators Madden and Oroho and Assemblymembers Caride, Mosquera, Pinkin, and Moriarty.

Today's action builds on the Governor's record of aggressively taking on the fight against drug addiction and abuse by emphasizing both prevention and treatment. Other recent measures Governor Christie signed to assist New Jersey's drug treatment and prevention efforts include:

- **P.L. 2015, c. 10:** which expands the bipartisan Overdose Prevention Act of 2013 by adding a provision that provides immunity to first responders. This law provides protections for first responders taking part in the Christie Administration's lifesaving Narcan pilot program and EMS waiver in effect in communities throughout New Jersey. It also clarifies immunity provisions for administering and dispensing Narcan to individuals and programs involved in the treatment of substance abuse and those that interact with substance abusers.
- **P.L. 2015, c. 9:** which requires Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services to annually prepare substance use treatment provider performance report, and make available to public
- **P.L. 2015, c. 11:** which requires DHS and DOC to formulate joint arrangement and plan to ensure provision of mental health and substance use disorder services to inmates


Other aggressive action taken by Governor Christie:

- **Creating the Facing Addiction Task Force:** This 12-member team of leaders and experts from inside and outside of government is chaired by Pastor Joe Carter and co-chaired by former Governor Jim McGreevey to fight addiction through treatment and prevention.
- **One-Stop Access To Help Ex-Offenders Battling Drug Addiction:** Governor Christie announced a groundbreaking one-stop model for connecting comprehensive services to ex-offenders re-entering society. Based on the principle of Integrated Reintegration, the Governor announced a program designed to streamline services available to ex-offenders to ensure they receive the kind of support they need to reclaim their lives and eventually move off government services and into the workplace.
- **A Statewide Expansion Of Drug Court:** This smarter and more effective approach is focused on helping drug-addicted offenders reclaim their lives with treatment, rather than warehousing them in prison. The landmark, bipartisan legislation signed by Governor Christie calls for a five-year phase in period, during which the capacity of the state's drug courts will be expanded and the effectiveness of the effort will be measured.
- **Signing Bipartisan Overdose Protection Act Into Law:** Governor Chris Christie signed the bipartisan Overdose Protection Act into legislation into law which takes a two-prong approach to help prevent drug overdose deaths in New Jersey. First, it provides legal protection to people who are in violation of the law while they are attempting to help a drug overdose victim. Secondly, it eliminates negative legal action against health care professionals or bystanders who administer overdose antidotes in life-threatening situations. In February 2015, Governor Christie signed an expansion of the Overdose Prevention Act, adding a provision providing immunity to first responders who administer and dispense Narcan.
- **Integrating Substance Abuse Treatment With Employment Services:** Governor Christie is going further in helping those with drug addiction reclaim their lives in a permanent way, by taking the lead on an innovative initiative to integrate substance abuse treatment with employment services like job training, skills acquisition, and job-search and placement resources
- **Implementing A Statewide Program To Train And Equip First Responders To Save Lives:** Governor Christie announced the statewide expansion of the successful pilot program to help reduce the number of heroin-related deaths by training and equipping police officers and first responders to administer the antidote Narcan to overdose victims.
- **Expansion of Prescription Monitoring Program (NJMPMP) to Include Interstate Data-Sharing:** In October 2014, Governor Christie announced that the New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program (NJMPMP) expanded its interstate data-sharing capabilities to connect with the State of Delaware's Prescription Monitoring Program. In addition, New Jersey is in the process of building a similar partnership with the State of New York.

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Reclaiming Lives

Governor Christie Signs Legislation Providing Stronger Tools To Help Prevent Drug Abuse

Today Governor Christie signed legislation to enhance the State's Project Medicine Drop program and to strengthen the Attorney General's law enforcement coordination efforts against opioid drug abuse. These measures include:

- **Expanding Project Medicine Drop.** Expands the Department of Law & Public Safety's (L&PS) existing Project Medicine Drop program, and provides for future expansion of the program at the funding discretion of the Department.
- **Refine New Jersey's Law Enforcement Coordination, Training, And Prescription Drug Oversight Efforts.** Strengthens the Attorney General's ability to coordinate statewide law enforcement efforts against opioid abuse in the Garden State. These coordination activities include the Division of Consumer Affairs and professional licensing boards in identifying, investigating, and prosecuting the illegal sources and distribution of prescription opioid drugs; taking appropriate steps to enhance the oversight by professional licensing boards; and providing training to law enforcement officials, physicians, and pharmacists.

Since the start of his administration, Governor Christie has placed a spotlight on changing the conversation on drug addiction and focusing on treatment for those struggling with addiction.

Ending The Stigma Through The Facing Addiction Task Force:

In September 2014, Governor Christie and Pastor Joe A. Carter of Newark's New Hope Baptist Church hosted a summit on drug addiction. The event acted as a call to action and conversation – bringing together public leaders, treatment professionals and advocates, and survivors of drug addiction – focused on ending the stigma around drug addiction and treatment.

The following month, Governor Christie created the Facing Addiction Task Force, a 12-member team of leaders and experts from inside and outside of government chaired by Pastor Joe Carter and co-chaired by former Governor Jim McGreevey to fight addiction through treatment and prevention.

One-Stop Access To Help Ex-Offenders Battling Drug Addiction:

In this year's State of the State Address, Governor Christie announced the first initiative to be implemented under the Task Force's guidance: A groundbreaking one-stop model for connecting comprehensive services to ex-offenders re-entering society.

Based on the principle of Integrated Reintegration, the Governor announced a program designed to streamline services available to ex-offenders to ensure they receive the kind of support they need to reclaim their lives and eventually move off government services and into the workplace.

By significantly building the ex-offenders' capacity to become self-sufficient, and connecting them directly to coordinated services during the critically important period as they leave prison or drug court, the program strengthens their reintegration into the community as well as reduces long-term service costs to the State. Services involved include addiction treatment, housing, and employment services.

The program will follow the Jersey City Employment and Training Program model – which has been hailed

as a "national model" and "at the forefront of the reentry field" and coordinated by the New Jersey Reentry Corporation (NJRC). The cities and counties participating in the program include:

- Newark / Essex County
- Paterson / Passaic County
- Atlantic City / Atlantic County
- Toms River / Ocean County
- Trenton / Mercer County
- Jersey City / Hudson County

ENDING THE FAILED WAR ON DRUGS BY PUTTING TREATMENT FIRST

A Statewide Expansion Of Drug Court:

Governor Christie has followed through on his commitment to take a smarter and more effective approach focused on treating drug-addicted offenders by signing into law landmark, bipartisan legislation to put in place a state-wide, mandatory drug court program. The legislation acts on Governor Christie's belief that no life is disposable and that it is a commonsense and moral imperative to help individuals dealing with drug addiction reclaim their lives with treatment, rather than warehousing them in prison.

- The law calls for a five-year phase in period, during which the capacity of the state's drug courts will be expanded and the effectiveness of the effort will be measured.

Governor Christie is further acting on his commitment by increasing funding by **\$8.5 million** for drug court expansion and treatment in the Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

- This additional funding permits the Department of Human Services to expand treatment to approximately 1,000 clients in both inpatient and outpatient facilities, providing the capacity needed to continue drug court expansion.

Drug Court Will Help New Jerseyans Turn Their Lives Around: The rate at which drug court graduates are re-arrested for new offenses is 16% and the reconviction rate is 8%.

- This is compared to re-arrest rates for drug offenders released from prison that stand at 54% with a re-conviction rate of 43%.
- An average institutional cost per inmate is approximately \$38,900, whereas the cost for an active drug court participant is roughly \$11,379.

Providing a Comprehensive Referral Source for Addiction Services:

This year, Governor Christie advances his efforts to take a smarter and more effective approach in how the State supports individuals with substance use disorders. The Fiscal Year 2016 budget provides **\$2.3 million** to create a single point of entry for individuals in crisis and their families.

- By moving away from fragmented treatment options, this newly-funded entity will improve the way the State delivers services to people with substance use disorders. Through this new management contract with Rutgers' University Behavioral Health Care, individuals who are uninsured or on Medicaid with addiction disorders will be able to more effectively access available services and resources throughout the State.

Integrating Substance Abuse Treatment With Employment Services:

Governor Christie is going further in helping those with drug addiction reclaim their lives in a permanent way, by taking the lead on an innovative initiative to integrate substance abuse treatment with

employment services like job training, skills acquisition, and job-search and placement resources.

- Research shows that integrating employment with substance abuse treatment helps secure participation in the treatment program and leads to lower rates of relapse.
- Leveraging a \$500,000 grant from the Nicholson Foundation is allowing the state to utilize up to \$500,000 in additional federal resources via the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training (SNAP E&T) program, for which many Drug Court participants are eligible.

Altogether, the Christie Administration and partners are devoting up to **\$1 million** towards these integrated employment services.

Expansion of Prescription Monitoring Program (NJMPMP) to Include Interstate Data-Sharing:

In October 2014, Governor Christie announced that the New Jersey Prescription Monitoring Program (NJMPMP) expanded its interstate data-sharing capabilities to connect with the State of Delaware's Prescription Monitoring Program. In addition, New Jersey is in the process of building a similar partnership with the State of New York.

- Since the announced expansion, NJMPMP participation has grown from **41 percent to 59 percent**.
- In April 2015, New Jersey launched the first-in-the-nation online app that allows authorized users of the state's Prescription Monitoring Program access to the database via Apple smartphones and handheld devices.

SAVING THE LIVES OF OVERDOSE VICTIMS

Signing Bipartisan Overdose Protection Act Into Law:

In May 2013, fulfilling his commitment to emphasize drug rehabilitation efforts and his different approach to dealing with drug abuse and addiction, Governor Chris Christie signed the bipartisan Overdose Protection Act into law at a drug rehabilitation center in Paterson (P.L. 2013, c. 46.). The Governor was joined at the bill signing by Jon Bon Jovi, leading drug prevention advocates and family members of individuals lost to drug overdoses.

- The legislation takes a two-prong approach to help prevent drug overdose deaths in New Jersey. First, it provides legal protection to people who are in violation of the law while they are attempting to help a drug overdose victim. Secondly, it eliminates negative legal action against health care professionals or bystanders who administer overdose antidotes in life-threatening situations.

In February 2015, Governor Christie signed an expansion of the Overdose Prevention Act, adding a provision providing immunity to first responders who administer and dispense Narcan.

Implementing A Statewide Program To Train And Equip First Responders To Save Lives:

Governor Christie announced the statewide expansion of the successful pilot program to help reduce the number of heroin-related deaths by training and equipping police officers and first responders to administer the antidote Narcan to overdose victims.

- The Christie Administration has issued a waiver to more than 28,000 certified EMTs to allow them to administer Narcan, a medication used to treat drug overdose patients in emergency situations statewide.
- Since April 2014, nearly **900 lives** have been saved through this pilot program.

HELPING NON-VIOLENT OFFENDERS RECLAIM THEIR LIVES

Common-Sense Bail Reform To Bring Fairness For Non-Violent Offenders:

Governor Christie signed bipartisan reforms to New Jersey's bail system that have been in the making for two and a half years. These reforms, along with an amendment to the State constitution approved by New Jersey voters on the November 2014 ballot, will keep dangerous individuals off the streets by allowing people charged with the most serious violent crimes to be held without bail.

- In addition, the reforms will make the bail system fairer by allowing those who commit minor, nonviolent offenses to have nonmonetary options instead of being confined to jail because they simply cannot afford even low bail amounts.

Helping Inmates Reclaim Their Lives By Attending College:

Building on New Jersey's long record of innovative approaches to combating recidivism and Governor Christie's firm commitment to helping non-violent offenders reclaim their lives, a consortium of public and private universities across New Jersey are helping prison inmates attend college.

Led by Rutgers University, the New Jersey Scholarship and Transformative Education in Prisons Consortium (NJ-STEP) is providing access to college for qualified incarcerated students, while assisting in the transition to college life upon their release into the community.

- NJ-STEP is an innovative four-year program launched at the beginning of the 2012-13 academic year, through which prisoners in New Jersey correctional facilities can work towards the Associate and Baccalaureate degrees in Social Sciences while preparing to transition to full-time college enrollment.
- Currently, there are nearly 500 inmates participating in the program, in 6 of New Jersey's 13 State correctional facilities, with the aim of expanding over the next four years to serve 2,000 inmates in 10 facilities.
 - NJ-STEP institutions offer more than 178 classes across the facilities, and applicants for seats in classes exceeded capacity.
 - According to a May 2013 study, students admitted to Rutgers University under the STEP program perform as well or better than their peers, both academically and socially.

Funding for NJ-STEP is provided through a major, multi-year grant to Rutgers University from The Ford Foundation and The Sunshine Lady Foundation. The NJ-STEP Consortium schools work in partnership with the Department of Corrections and State Parole Board.

Building On New Jersey's Strong Record Of Combating Recidivism:

In November 2011, taking action to build on the nationally recognized success of New Jersey's prisoner re-entry, rehabilitation and prevention programs, Governor Chris Christie outlined an initiative to help even more offenders get the support they need to successfully re-enter society, break the cycle of criminality and lead productive lives.

New Jersey is widely recognized as a national leader in reducing incidents of recidivism and reducing its prison population:

- The state's 11 percent recidivism decline is among the steepest declines of any state according to the Pew Center on the States' State of Recidivism report, "The Revolving Door of America's Prisons."

- Since 1999, New Jersey's prison population has declined more than 29 percent.