

9:2-4a et al
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2015 **CHAPTER:** 255

NJSA: 9:2-4a et al (Clarifies best interests of the child should be primary consideration in actions undertaken by State governmental entities and courts of law.)

BILL NO: S3242 (Substituted for A4856)

SPONSOR(S) Vitale, Joseph F., and others

DATE INTRODUCED: November 5, 2015

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** ---

SENATE: Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: No

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 1/11/2016

SENATE: 1/7/2016

DATE OF APPROVAL: January 19, 2016

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (Introduced bill enacted) Yes

S3242

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

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

A4856

INTRODUCED BILL: (Includes sponsor(s) statement) Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: No

(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

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

end

P.L.2015, CHAPTER 255, *approved January 19, 2016*
Senate, No. 3242

1 AN ACT concerning the best interests of the child, revising various
2 parts of the statutory law, and supplementing Title 9 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

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

7
8 1. Section 2 of P.L.1982, c.77 (C.2A:4A-21) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 2. Purposes. This act shall be construed so as to effectuate the
11 following purposes:

12 a. To preserve the unity of the family whenever possible and to
13 provide for the care, protection, and wholesome mental and
14 physical development of juveniles coming within the provisions of
15 this act;

16 b. Consistent with the protection of the public interest, to
17 remove from children committing delinquent acts certain statutory
18 consequences of criminal behavior, and to substitute therefor an
19 adequate program of supervision, care and rehabilitation, and a
20 range of sanctions designed to promote accountability and protect
21 the public;

22 c. To separate juveniles from the family environment only
23 when necessary for their health, safety, or welfare or in the interests
24 of public safety;

25 d. To secure for each child coming under the jurisdiction of the
26 court **【such】** the care, guidance, and control, preferably in his own
27 home, as will conduce to the child's welfare and the best interests of
28 the State; and when **【such】** the child is removed from his own
29 family, to secure for him custody, care, and discipline as nearly as
30 possible equivalent to that which should have been given by his
31 parents;

32 e. To insure that children under the jurisdiction of the court are
33 wards of the State, subject to the discipline and entitled to the
34 protection of the State, which may intervene to safeguard them from
35 neglect or injury and to enforce the legal obligations due to them
36 and from them;

37 f. Consistent with the protection of the public interest, to
38 insure that any services and sanctions for juveniles provide
39 balanced attention to the protection of the community, the
40 imposition of accountability for offenses committed, fostering
41 interaction and dialogue between the offender, victim, and

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 community, and the development of competencies to enable
2 children to become responsible and productive members of the
3 community; **[and]**

4 g. To insure protection and a safe environment for those
5 sexually exploited juveniles who are charged with prostitution or
6 who are alleged to be victims of human trafficking; and to provide
7 these juveniles with the appropriate shelter, care, counseling, and
8 crisis intervention services from the time they are taken into
9 custody and for the duration of any legal proceedings; and

10 h. To insure that in any action undertaken within the provisions
11 of this act, the best interests of the child shall be a primary
12 consideration.

13 (P.L.2011, c.195, s.1)

14

15 2. Section 1 of P.L.1971, c.437 (C.9:6-8.8) is amended to read
16 as follows:

17 1. a. The purpose of this act is to provide for the protection of
18 children under 18 years of age who have had serious injury inflicted
19 upon them by other than accidental means. The safety of the
20 children served shall be of paramount concern and the best interests
21 of the child shall be a primary consideration. It is the intent of this
22 legislation to assure that the lives of innocent children are
23 immediately safeguarded from further injury and possible death and
24 that the legal rights of **[such]** the children are fully protected.

25 b. (1) In accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (2), (3),
26 and (4) of this subsection, when determining the reasonable efforts
27 to be made and when making the reasonable efforts, the child's
28 health and safety shall be of paramount concern and the best
29 interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

30 (2) In any case in which the division accepts a child in care or
31 custody, the division shall make reasonable efforts, prior to
32 placement, to preserve the family in order to prevent the need for
33 removing the child from his home. After placement, the division
34 shall make reasonable efforts to make it possible for the child to
35 safely return to his home.

36 (3) Reasonable efforts to place a child for adoption or with a
37 legal guardian or in an alternative permanent placement may be
38 made concurrently with reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify
39 the child's family.

40 (4) In any case in which family reunification is not the
41 permanency plan for the child, reasonable efforts shall be made to
42 place the child in a timely manner and to complete the steps
43 necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child.

44 (cf: P.L. 1999, c.53, s.4)

45

46 3. Section 1 of P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-1) is amended to read
47 as follows:

1 bill mandates that in any action concerning children undertaken by
2 a State department, agency, commission, authority, court of law, or
3 State or local legislative body, the best interests of the child would
4 be a primary consideration.

5 Specifically, the bill amends section 2 of P.L.1982, c.77
6 (C.2A:4A-21) to expand the purposes of the “New Jersey Code of
7 Juvenile Justice” to include insuring that in any action undertaken
8 within the provisions of the code, the best interests of the child
9 would be a primary consideration.

10 The bill amends section 1 of P.L.1971, c.437 (C.9:6-8.8)
11 (adjudication of allegations of child abuse and neglect) to clarify
12 that in accordance with law, the best interests of the child would be
13 a primary consideration when providing for the protection of
14 children under the age of 18. Currently, under the provisions of the
15 law, when providing protection to children under the age of 18, the
16 safety of children is of paramount concern. The statute does not
17 specify that the best interests the child should be a primary
18 consideration.

19 Further, the bill amends section 1 of P.L.1971, c.437 to specify
20 that the best interests of the child would be a primary consideration
21 when determining and making reasonable efforts to: prevent, if
22 possible, the out-of-home placement of a child; safely return a child
23 home after an out-of-home placement; place a child for adoption,
24 with a legal guardian, or in an alternative permanent placement
25 while concurrently planning to preserve and reunify the child's
26 family; and to place the child in a timely manner and complete the
27 necessary steps to finalize the permanent placement of the child, if
28 family reunification is not possible.

29 Currently, when determining and making reasonable efforts
30 under the provisions of the law, the health and safety of a child is of
31 paramount concern. The law does not specify that the best interests
32 of the child should also be a primary consideration.

33 The bill also amends section 1 of P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-1)
34 (child protective services) to stipulate that in accordance with the
35 principles of the law and the public policy of the State, the best
36 interests of the child would be a primary consideration. Currently,
37 the principles outlined in the law and in State public policy stipulate
38 that the safety of the child is of paramount concern and does not
39 address the best interests of the child as a primary consideration.

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44 Clarifies best interests of the child should be primary
45 consideration in actions undertaken by State governmental entities
46 and courts of law.

SENATE, No. 3242

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 5, 2015

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE

District 19 (Middlesex)

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Ruiz

SYNOPSIS

Clarifies best interests of the child should be primary consideration in actions undertaken by State governmental entities and courts of law.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/12/2016)

1 AN ACT concerning the best interests of the child, revising various
2 parts of the statutory law, and supplementing Title 9 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

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

7
8 1. Section 2 of P.L.1982, c.77 (C.2A:4A-21) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 2. Purposes. This act shall be construed so as to effectuate the
11 following purposes:

12 a. To preserve the unity of the family whenever possible and to
13 provide for the care, protection, and wholesome mental and
14 physical development of juveniles coming within the provisions of
15 this act;

16 b. Consistent with the protection of the public interest, to
17 remove from children committing delinquent acts certain statutory
18 consequences of criminal behavior, and to substitute therefor an
19 adequate program of supervision, care and rehabilitation, and a
20 range of sanctions designed to promote accountability and protect
21 the public;

22 c. To separate juveniles from the family environment only
23 when necessary for their health, safety, or welfare or in the interests
24 of public safety;

25 d. To secure for each child coming under the jurisdiction of the
26 court **[such]** the care, guidance, and control, preferably in his own
27 home, as will conduce to the child's welfare and the best interests of
28 the State; and when **[such]** the child is removed from his own
29 family, to secure for him custody, care, and discipline as nearly as
30 possible equivalent to that which should have been given by his
31 parents;

32 e. To insure that children under the jurisdiction of the court are
33 wards of the State, subject to the discipline and entitled to the
34 protection of the State, which may intervene to safeguard them from
35 neglect or injury and to enforce the legal obligations due to them
36 and from them;

37 f. Consistent with the protection of the public interest, to
38 insure that any services and sanctions for juveniles provide
39 balanced attention to the protection of the community, the
40 imposition of accountability for offenses committed, fostering
41 interaction and dialogue between the offender, victim, and
42 community, and the development of competencies to enable
43 children to become responsible and productive members of the
44 community; **[and]**

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 g. To insure protection and a safe environment for those
2 sexually exploited juveniles who are charged with prostitution or
3 who are alleged to be victims of human trafficking; and to provide
4 these juveniles with the appropriate shelter, care, counseling, and
5 crisis intervention services from the time they are taken into
6 custody and for the duration of any legal proceedings; and

7 h. To insure that in any action undertaken within the provisions
8 of this act, the best interests of the child shall be a primary
9 consideration.

10 (P.L.2011, c.195, s.1)

11
12 2. Section 1 of P.L.1971, c.437 (C.9:6-8.8) is amended to read
13 as follows:

14 1. a. The purpose of this act is to provide for the protection of
15 children under 18 years of age who have had serious injury inflicted
16 upon them by other than accidental means. The safety of the
17 children served shall be of paramount concern and the best interests
18 of the child shall be a primary consideration. It is the intent of this
19 legislation to assure that the lives of innocent children are
20 immediately safeguarded from further injury and possible death and
21 that the legal rights of **such** the children are fully protected.

22 b. (1) In accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (2), (3),
23 and (4) of this subsection, when determining the reasonable efforts
24 to be made and when making the reasonable efforts, the child's
25 health and safety shall be of paramount concern and the best
26 interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

27 (2) In any case in which the division accepts a child in care or
28 custody, the division shall make reasonable efforts, prior to
29 placement, to preserve the family in order to prevent the need for
30 removing the child from his home. After placement, the division
31 shall make reasonable efforts to make it possible for the child to
32 safely return to his home.

33 (3) Reasonable efforts to place a child for adoption or with a
34 legal guardian or in an alternative permanent placement may be
35 made concurrently with reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify
36 the child's family.

37 (4) In any case in which family reunification is not the
38 permanency plan for the child, reasonable efforts shall be made to
39 place the child in a timely manner and to complete the steps
40 necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child.

41 (cf: P.L. 1999, c.53, s.4)

42
43 3. Section 1 of P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-1) is amended to read
44 as follows:

45 1. This act is to be administered strictly in accordance with the
46 general principles laid down in this section, which are declared to
47 be the public policy of this State, whereby the safety of children

1 shall be of paramount concern and the best interests of children
2 shall be a primary consideration:

3 (a) That the preservation and strengthening of family life is a
4 matter of public concern as being in the interests of the general
5 welfare, but the health and safety of the child shall be the State's
6 paramount concern when making a decision on whether or not it is
7 in the child's best interest to preserve the family unit;

8 (b) That the prevention and correction of dependency and
9 delinquency among children should be accomplished so far as
10 practicable through welfare services which will seek to continue the
11 living of **[such]** the children in their own homes;

12 (c) That necessary welfare services to children should be
13 strengthened and extended through the development of private and
14 voluntary agencies qualified to provide **[such]** the services;

15 (d) That wherever in this State necessary welfare services are
16 not available to children who are dependent or adjudged delinquent
17 by proper judicial tribunal, or in danger of so becoming, then
18 **[such]** the services should be provided by this State until such
19 times as they are made available by private and voluntary agencies;

20 (e) That the State may assist private, public, and voluntary
21 agencies to construct, purchase, upgrade, or renovate youth
22 facilities for the residential care or day treatment of children in need
23 of these services; and

24 (f) That each child placed outside his home by the State has the
25 need for permanency: through return to the child's own home, if the
26 child can be returned home without endangering the child's health
27 or safety; through adoption, if family reunification is not possible;
28 or through an alternative permanent placement, if termination of
29 parental rights is not appropriate.

30 (cf: P.L.1999, c.53, s.20)

31

32 4. (New section) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law
33 to the contrary, in any action concerning children undertaken by a
34 State department, agency, commission, authority, court of law, or
35 State or local legislative body, the best interests of the child shall be
36 a primary consideration.

37

38 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

39

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STATEMENT

42

43 Under current law, the best interests of the child is one of many
44 factors that State governmental agencies and courts of law must
45 take into account when taking any action concerning a child. This
46 bill mandates that in any action concerning children undertaken by
47 a State department, agency, commission, authority, court of law, or

1 State or local legislative body, the best interests of the child would
2 be a primary consideration.

3 Specifically, the bill amends section 2 of P.L.1982, c.77
4 (C.2A:4A-21) to expand the purposes of the “New Jersey Code of
5 Juvenile Justice” to include insuring that in any action undertaken
6 within the provisions of the code, the best interests of the child
7 would be a primary consideration.

8 The bill amends section 1 of P.L.1971, c.437 (C.9:6-8.8)
9 (adjudication of allegations of child abuse and neglect) to clarify
10 that in accordance with law, the best interests of the child would be
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12 children under the age of 18. Currently, under the provisions of the
13 law, when providing protection to children under the age of 18, the
14 safety of children is of paramount concern. The statute does not
15 specify that the best interests the child should be a primary
16 consideration.

17 Further, the bill amends section 1 of P.L.1971, c.437 to specify
18 that the best interests of the child would be a primary consideration
19 when determining and making reasonable efforts to: prevent, if
20 possible, the out-of-home placement of a child; safely return a child
21 home after an out-of-home placement; place a child for adoption,
22 with a legal guardian, or in an alternative permanent placement
23 while concurrently planning to preserve and reunify the child's
24 family; and to place the child in a timely manner and complete the
25 necessary steps to finalize the permanent placement of the child, if
26 family reunification is not possible.

27 Currently, when determining and making reasonable efforts
28 under the provisions of the law, the health and safety of a child is of
29 paramount concern. The law does not specify that the best interests
30 of the child should also be a primary consideration.

31 The bill also amends section 1 of P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-1)
32 (child protective services) to stipulate that in accordance with the
33 principles of the law and the public policy of the State, the best
34 interests of the child would be a primary consideration. Currently,
35 the principles outlined in the law and in State public policy stipulate
36 that the safety of the child is of paramount concern and does not
37 address the best interests of the child as a primary consideration.

SENATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND SENIOR
CITIZENS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3242

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 10, 2015

The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3242.

Under current law, the best interests of the child is one of many factors that State governmental agencies and courts of law must take into account when taking any action concerning a child. This bill mandates that in any action concerning children undertaken by a State department, agency, commission, authority, court of law, or State or local legislative body, the best interests of the child would be a primary consideration.

Specifically, the bill amends section 2 of P.L.1982, c.77 (C.2A:4A-21) to expand the purposes of the “New Jersey Code of Juvenile Justice” to include insuring that in any action undertaken within the provisions of the code, the best interests of the child would be a primary consideration.

The bill amends section 1 of P.L.1971, c.437 (C.9:6-8.8) (adjudication of allegations of child abuse and neglect) to clarify that in accordance with law, the best interests of the child would be a primary consideration when providing for the protection of children under the age of 18. Currently, under the provisions of the law, when providing protection to children under the age of 18, the safety of children is of paramount concern. The statute does not specify that the best interests the child should be a primary consideration.

Further, the bill amends section 1 of P.L.1971, c.437 to specify that the best interests of the child would be a primary consideration when determining and making reasonable efforts to: prevent, if possible, the out-of-home placement of a child; safely return a child home after an out-of-home placement; place a child for adoption, with a legal guardian, or in an alternative permanent placement while concurrently planning to preserve and reunify the child's family; and place the child in a timely manner and complete the necessary steps to finalize the permanent placement of the child, if family reunification is not possible.

Currently, when determining and making reasonable efforts under the provisions of the law, the health and safety of a child is of

paramount concern. The law does not specify that the best interests of the child should also be a primary consideration.

The bill also amends section 1 of P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-1) (child protective services) to stipulate that in accordance with the principles of the law and the public policy of the State, the best interests of the child would be a primary consideration. Currently, the principles outlined in the law and in State public policy stipulate that the safety of the child is of paramount concern and does not address the best interests of the child as a primary consideration.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4856

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 216th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 10, 2015

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE
District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Clarifies best interests of the child should be primary consideration in actions undertaken by State governmental entities and courts of law.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



A4856 VAINIERI HUTTLE

2

1 AN ACT concerning the best interests of the child, revising various
2 parts of the statutory law, and supplementing Title 9 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. Section 2 of P.L.1982, c.77 (C.2A:4A-21) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 2. Purposes. This act shall be construed so as to effectuate the
11 following purposes:

12 a. To preserve the unity of the family whenever possible and to
13 provide for the care, protection, and wholesome mental and
14 physical development of juveniles coming within the provisions of
15 this act;

16 b. Consistent with the protection of the public interest, to
17 remove from children committing delinquent acts certain statutory
18 consequences of criminal behavior, and to substitute therefor an
19 adequate program of supervision, care and rehabilitation, and a
20 range of sanctions designed to promote accountability and protect
21 the public;

22 c. To separate juveniles from the family environment only
23 when necessary for their health, safety, or welfare or in the interests
24 of public safety;

25 d. To secure for each child coming under the jurisdiction of the
26 court **[such]** the care, guidance, and control, preferably in his own
27 home, as will conduce to the child's welfare and the best interests of
28 the State; and when **[such]** the child is removed from his own
29 family, to secure for him custody, care, and discipline as nearly as
30 possible equivalent to that which should have been given by his
31 parents;

32 e. To insure that children under the jurisdiction of the court are
33 wards of the State, subject to the discipline and entitled to the
34 protection of the State, which may intervene to safeguard them from
35 neglect or injury and to enforce the legal obligations due to them
36 and from them;

37 f. Consistent with the protection of the public interest, to
38 insure that any services and sanctions for juveniles provide
39 balanced attention to the protection of the community, the
40 imposition of accountability for offenses committed, fostering
41 interaction and dialogue between the offender, victim, and
42 community, and the development of competencies to enable
43 children to become responsible and productive members of the
44 community; **[and]**

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.

A4856 VAINIERI HUTTLE

3

1 g. To insure protection and a safe environment for those
2 sexually exploited juveniles who are charged with prostitution or
3 who are alleged to be victims of human trafficking; and to provide
4 these juveniles with the appropriate shelter, care, counseling, and
5 crisis intervention services from the time they are taken into
6 custody and for the duration of any legal proceedings; and

7 h. To insure that in any action undertaken within the provisions
8 of this act, the best interests of the child shall be a primary
9 consideration.

10 (cf: P.L.2011, c.195, s.1)

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15 children under 18 years of age who have had serious injury inflicted
16 upon them by other than accidental means. The safety of the
17 children served shall be of paramount concern and the best interests
18 of the child shall be a primary consideration. It is the intent of this
19 legislation to assure that the lives of innocent children are
20 immediately safeguarded from further injury and possible death and
21 that the legal rights of **such** the children are fully protected.

22 b. (1) In accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (2), (3),
23 and (4) of this subsection, when determining the reasonable efforts
24 to be made and when making the reasonable efforts, the child's
25 health and safety shall be of paramount concern and the best
26 interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

27 (2) In any case in which the division accepts a child in care or
28 custody, the division shall make reasonable efforts, prior to
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30 removing the child from his home. After placement, the division
31 shall make reasonable efforts to make it possible for the child to
32 safely return to his home.

33 (3) Reasonable efforts to place a child for adoption or with a
34 legal guardian or in an alternative permanent placement may be
35 made concurrently with reasonable efforts to preserve and reunify
36 the child's family.

37 (4) In any case in which family reunification is not the
38 permanency plan for the child, reasonable efforts shall be made to
39 place the child in a timely manner and to complete the steps
40 necessary to finalize the permanent placement of the child.

41 (cf: P.L.1999, c.53, s.4)

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43 3. Section 1 of P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-1) is amended to read
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46 general principles laid down in this section, which are declared to
47 be the public policy of this State, whereby the safety of children

1 shall be of paramount concern and the best interests of children
2 shall be a primary consideration:

3 (a) That the preservation and strengthening of family life is a
4 matter of public concern as being in the interests of the general
5 welfare, but the health and safety of the child shall be the State's
6 paramount concern when making a decision on whether or not it is
7 in the child's best interest to preserve the family unit;

8 (b) That the prevention and correction of dependency and
9 delinquency among children should be accomplished so far as
10 practicable through welfare services which will seek to continue the
11 living of **[such]** the children in their own homes;

12 (c) That necessary welfare services to children should be
13 strengthened and extended through the development of private and
14 voluntary agencies qualified to provide **[such]** the services;

15 (d) That wherever in this State necessary welfare services are
16 not available to children who are dependent or adjudged delinquent
17 by proper judicial tribunal, or in danger of so becoming, then
18 **[such]** the services should be provided by this State until such
19 times as they are made available by private and voluntary agencies;

20 (e) That the State may assist private, public, and voluntary
21 agencies to construct, purchase, upgrade, or renovate youth
22 facilities for the residential care or day treatment of children in need
23 of these services; and

24 (f) That each child placed outside his home by the State has the
25 need for permanency: through return to the child's own home, if the
26 child can be returned home without endangering the child's health
27 or safety; through adoption, if family reunification is not possible;
28 or through an alternative permanent placement, if termination of
29 parental rights is not appropriate.

30 (cf: P.L.1999, c.53, s.20)

31

32 4. (New section) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law
33 to the contrary, in any action concerning children undertaken by a
34 State department, agency, commission, authority, court of law, or
35 State or local legislative body, the best interests of the child shall be
36 a primary consideration.

37

38 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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43 Under current law, the best interests of the child is one of many
44 factors that State governmental agencies and courts of law must
45 take into account when taking any action concerning a child. This
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3 Specifically, the bill amends section 2 of P.L.1982, c.77
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6 within the provisions of the code, the best interests of the child
7 would be a primary consideration.

8 The bill amends section 1 of P.L.1971, c.437 (C.9:6-8.8)
9 (adjudication of allegations of child abuse and neglect) to clarify
10 that in accordance with law, the best interests of the child would be
11 a primary consideration when providing for the protection of
12 children under the age of 18. Currently, under the provisions of the
13 law, when providing protection to children under the age of 18, the
14 safety of children is of paramount concern. The statute does not
15 specify that the best interests the child should be a primary
16 consideration.

17 Further, the bill amends section 1 of P.L.1971, c.437 to specify
18 that the best interests of the child would be a primary consideration
19 when determining and making reasonable efforts to: prevent, if
20 possible, the out-of-home placement of a child; safely return a child
21 home after an out-of-home placement; place a child for adoption,
22 with a legal guardian, or in an alternative permanent placement
23 while concurrently planning to preserve and reunify the child's
24 family; and to place the child in a timely manner and complete the
25 necessary steps to finalize the permanent placement of the child, if
26 family reunification is not possible.

27 Currently, when determining and making reasonable efforts
28 under the provisions of the law, the health and safety of a child is of
29 paramount concern. The law does not specify that the best interests
30 of the child should also be a primary consideration.

31 The bill also amends section 1 of P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-1)
32 (child protective services) to stipulate that in accordance with the
33 principles of the law and the public policy of the State, the best
34 interests of the child would be a primary consideration. Currently,
35 the principles outlined in the law and in State public policy stipulate
36 that the safety of the child is of paramount concern and does not
37 address the best interests of the child as a primary consideration.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4856

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 7, 2016

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4856.

This bill mandates that in any action concerning children undertaken by a State department, agency, commission, authority, court of law, or State or local legislative body, the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration.

Under current law, the best interests of the child is one of many factors that State governmental agencies and courts of law must take into account when taking any action concerning a child.

Specifically, the bill amends section 2 of P.L.1982, c.77 (C.2A:4A-21) to expand the purposes of the “New Jersey Code of Juvenile Justice” to include insuring that in any action undertaken within the provisions of the code, the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration.

The bill amends section 1 of P.L.1971, c.437 (C.9:6-8.8) (adjudication of allegations of child abuse and neglect) to clarify that in accordance with law, the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration when providing for the protection of children under the age of 18. Currently, under the provisions of the law, when providing protection to children under the age of 18, the safety of children is of paramount concern. The statute does not specify that the best interests of the child be a primary consideration.

Further, the bill amends section 1 of P.L.1971, c.437 to specify that the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration when determining and making reasonable efforts to: prevent, if possible, the out-of-home placement of a child; safely return a child home after an out-of-home placement; place a child for adoption, with a legal guardian, or in an alternative permanent placement while concurrently planning to preserve and reunify the child's family; and to place the child in a timely manner and complete the necessary steps to finalize the permanent placement of the child, if family reunification is not possible.

Currently, when determining and making reasonable efforts under the provisions of the law, the health and safety of a child is of paramount concern. The law does not specify that the best interests of the child also be a primary consideration.

The bill also amends section 1 of P.L.1951, c.138 (C.30:4C-1) (child protective services) to stipulate that in accordance with the principles of the law and the public policy of the State, the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration. Currently, the principles outlined in the law and in State public policy stipulate that the safety of the child is of paramount concern and do not address the best interests of the child as a primary consideration.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

Governor Chris Christie Takes Action On Pending Legislation From The 216th Legislative Session

Tuesday, January 19, 2016 Tags: [Weather](#)



Trenton, NJ – Furthering his administration's commitment to New Jersey's veterans and military personnel, Governor Chris Christie took action today on legislation from the 216th Legislative Session, including 11 legislative measures designed to assist both active military members and veterans, along with their families.

"From the very start of this administration, we have focused on serving the needs of our veterans and the men and women still in active duty, assisting them with everything from securing jobs to finding the proper health care and social services," said Governor Christie. "The bills I signed today continue to make good on our promise to help those who have given so much of themselves to defend and serve this nation find a seamless transition back to civilian life and receive a helping-hand, when needed, no matter how long after their discharge from the military."

The enacted legislation includes:

- **S-172/A-2276 (Whelan, Beach/DeAngelo, Quijano)** - Exempts disabled veterans and Purple Heart recipients from payment of municipal parking meter fees when their vehicles bear a disable veteran's or Purple Heart license plate or placard issued by New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
- **S-2972/A-4465 (Van Drew, Cruz-Perez/Andrzejczak, Tucker, Benson)** - Requires DMVA assist and mentor veterans through criminal justice system
- **A-1667/S-2155 (Johnson, DeAngelo, Andrzejczak, Mukherji, Pintor Marin/Van Drew, A.R. Bucco)** - Permits child whose parent or guardian is ordered into active military service to remain enrolled in school district where child's parent or guardian resided prior to active military service
- **A-2935/S-1325 (Andrzejczak, Lagana, Webber, Mosquera, Lampitt/Van Drew, A.R. Bucco)** - Authorizes property tax deferment for deployed military personnel
- **A-2299/S-239 (Andrzejczak, Benson/Van Drew, Stack)** - Requires municipalities to exempt 100% disabled veterans from construction permit surcharge fees for improvements to promote living unit accessibility; appropriates \$20,000 for municipal reimbursements
- **A-3552/S-2636 (Mazzeo, Andrzejczak, Mukherji, Benson/Beach, Van Drew)** - Creates financial planning assistance program for disabled veterans and their caregivers
- **A-3554/S-2606 (Mazzeo, Andrzejczak, Mukherji, Benson, Danielsen/Beach, Cruz-Perez)** - Increases income eligibility cap to receive respite care for certain veterans
- **AS for A-3750/S-2569 (Lampitt, Tucker, Andrzejczak, Singleton, Mosquera/Beach, Allen)** - Requires Adjutant General to create informational webpage for women veterans
- **A-4148/S-2731 (Andrzejczak, Benson/Van Drew, Beach)** - Provides an excused absence on Veterans Day for pupil who participates in certain activities for veterans or active duty members of United States Armed Forces or New Jersey National Guard

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- **A-4323/S-2952 (DeAngelo, Lagana, Muoio, Benson/Beach, Whelan)** - Expands timeframe for renewal of driver's license, registration, and inspection by military personnel and immediate family members under certain circumstances.
- **AJR-117/SJR-85 (Tucker, Holley, Vainieri Huttie/Beach, Whelan, Madden)** - Urges Congress to restore funding to Vets4Warriors veteran suicide hotline

The Governor also took the following action on other pending legislation:

BILL SIGNINGS:

BILL SIGNINGS:

- **S-451/A-1103 (Ruiz, Allen/Vainieri Huttie, Singleton, Benson)** - Establishes Office of the Special Education Ombudsman in DOE
- **S-485/A-1976 (Cunningham, Ruiz/Lampitt, Mosquera, Quijano)** -Requires president of public institution of higher education to regularly report on-campus criminal and fire events to the institution's governing board
- **S-489/A-4926 (Cunningham, T. Kean/Diegnan, Mukherji, Benson)** - Authorizes institutions of higher education to grant college credit to high school students who complete the Jersey Boys State or Jersey Girls State program
- **S-832/A-2039 (Whelan, Beach/Moriarty, Stender, Garcia)** - Permits voter registration of certain persons at age 17 for voting at next election occurring on or after 18th birthday
- **S-1046/A-2721 (Turner, Scutari/Gusciora)** - Concerns alterations in child support obligations in response to changes to status of supported child
- **S-1184/A-1950 (Vitale, Beach/Conaway, Diegnan, Sumter, Danielsen)** - Revises requirements for licensure and creates physician-delegated scope of practice for physician assistants
- **S-1346wGR/A-3837 (Rice/Coughlin, Garcia, Rodriguez-Gregg, Pintor Marin, Jasey)** - Concerns the recording of mortgages
- **S-1447/A-2829 (Greenstein, Addiego/Johnson, Mainor, Rible, Quijano)** - Prohibits posting, publishing on the Internet, or disclosing certain information regarding law enforcement officers
- **S-1567/A-410 (A.R. Bucco, Van Drew/A.M. Bucco, Bramnick, Johnson, Quijano, Rumana)** - Establishes DOT roadside memorial program for fallen police officers, sheriff's officers, EMS workers, and firefighters; designated as "Patrolman Joseph Wargo's Law"
- **S-1687/A-4924 (Ruiz, Vitale/Diegnan, Eustace)** - Permits students made homeless by act of terrorism or natural disaster to attend tuition-free the school district in which they resided prior to being homeless for two school years after the event
- **S-2032wGR/A-3440 (Codey, Turner/Diegnan, Eustace)** - Requires DOE to review Core Curriculum Content Standards to ensure that they incorporate modern computer science standards where appropriate
- **S-2110/A-3343 (Oroho/Space, Vainieri Huttie, Schaer, Phoebus, Pinkin)** - Requires nursing homes to offer form designating beneficiary of personal needs allowance accounts from incoming and current residents

- **S-2201/A-3273 (O'Toole/Russo, Rumana, Casagrande)** - Authorizes youth camps to maintain supply of epinephrine and permit trained employees to administer epinephrine to camp members suffering from anaphylaxis
- **SCS for S-2251/A-3708 (Oroho, Barnes/Diegnan, Webber, Johnson, Space, Phoebus)** - Increases monetary amounts for transfer of estate assets without administration and for exemption from debts of the deceased
- **S-2260wGR/A-688 (Scutari, Cardinale/Schaer)** - Modifies certain fees charged by, and requirements imposed on, check casher licensees
- **S-2284wGR/A-3549 (Pou, Weinberg/Schaer, Vainieri Huttie, Webber, Singleton, Jimenez, Johnson, Bramnick)** - Requires Medicaid managed care organizations to meet certain conditions prior to reducing reimbursement rates for personal care assistant services and home-based supportive care services
- **S-2442/A-3891 (T. Kean, Sarlo/Bramnick, Rodriquez-Gregg, Johnson, Casagrande, Schepisi)** - Establishes NJ Innovation and Research Fellowship Program in DOLWD
- **S-2495/A-3868 (Codey, Rice/Conaway, Singleton, Eustace, Coughlin)** - Authorizes State-chartered banks, savings banks, savings and loans, and credit unions to conduct certain savings account promotions
- **S-2617/A-3944 (Cardinale/Garcia, McKeon, Auth, Eustace, Pinkin)** - Requires DEP to adopt regulations to allow cultivation of commercial shellfish species in certain coastal and inner harbor waters for research, educational, or restoration purposes; requires community engagement process for revision thereof
- **S-2627/A-3957 (Cardinale, Sacco/Schepisi, Auth, Eustace, Rumana, Johnson)** - Designates State Highway Route 17 in Borough of Ramsey as "Staff Sergeant Timothy R. McGill Memorial Highway"
- **S-2695/A-4110 (T. Kean, Sacco/Dancer, Benson, Jimenez, Johnson)** - Requires MVC conduct study and make recommendations concerning electronic driver's licenses and mobile applications
- **S-2741/A-4213 (Doherty/Vainieri Huttie, Webber)** - Permits unregulated solicitation to perform snow shoveling within 24 hours of predicted snowstorm
- **S-2787wGR/A-4273 (Sweeney/Singleton, Burzichelli, Giblin, Prieto, Wimberly)** - Establishes vocational training pilot program in DOC; provides for inmate compensation for education and workforce training participation
- **S-2880/A-4704 (Lesniak, T. Kean/Diegnan, Wisniewski)** - Provides up to \$25 million in tax credits under Economic Redevelopment and Growth Grant Program for certain infrastructure at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
- **S-2922/A-4925 (Ruiz, Turner/Diegnan, Jasey)** - Requires DOE on its website to link to Department of Treasury's website where list is maintained of all third party individuals and vendors employed or retained for work associated with State assessments
- **S-2923/A-4901 (Ruiz, Turner/Jasey, Caputo)** - Requires school district or charter school to provide notification to parent or guardian of enrolled student on upcoming administration of State assessments or commercially-developed standardized assessment
- **S-2960/A-4331 (Codey, Rice/Garcia, Vainieri Huttie, Danielsén, DeAngelo, Holley, Benson, Mukherji)** -

Establishes requirements for training programs for homemaker-home health aides in care of patients with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders

- **S-3019/A-4771 (Sweeney, Stack/Burzichelli, Muoio)** - Requires filing of financial agreement for long term tax exemption with county finance officer and counsel; requires quarterly payment of county share of payment in lieu of tax
- **S-3129/A-4728 (Madden, Cunningham/DeAngelo, Benson, Lampitt, Quijano)** - Directs DOLWD to provide information regarding employee leave and benefit rights
- **S-3168/A-4769 (Sweeney, O'Toole/Burzichelli)** - Limits increase in annual budget requests of certain county entities
- **S-3170/A-4768 (Pou, Bateman/Burzichelli)** - Requires county superintendent of elections to operate pursuant to county administrative code; subjects certain salary costs of office of county superintendent of elections to review and approval by county governing body
- **S-3171/A-4575 (Whelan, Oroho/Greenwald, Burzichelli)** - Creates definition of certified mail
- **S-3182/A-4690 (Ruiz, Pou/Pintor Marin, Spencer, Sumter)** - Delays certain documentation submission deadlines under certain business tax credit programs
- **S-3207/A-4714 (Vitale, T. Kean/Lampitt, Mosquera)** - Limits liability of caregivers when facilitating normalcy for children in foster care
- **S-3240/A-4878 (Lesniak, Allen/Spencer, Sumter, Holley, Eustace)** - Authorizes establishment of recovery high school alternative education programs
- **S-3242/A-4856 (Vitale, Sweeney/Vainieri Huttie)** - Clarifies best interests of the child should be primary consideration in actions undertaken by State governmental entities and courts of law
- **S-3243/A-4702 (Vitale, Greenstein/Vainieri Huttie, Spencer)** - Provides that if minor appears to have been sexually assaulted, health care professionals in addition to physicians may authorize forensic sexual assault examination and medical care without parental consent
- **S-3247/A-4928 (Ruiz, Pou/Sumter, Wimberly)** - Eliminates cap on cost of SDA district school facilities projects that may be constructed by district and included in capital outlay budget
- **S-3282wGR/A-4850 (Rice, Cunningham/Wimberly, Mainor, Johnson)** - Expands Police Training Commission membership to include representative from Northern New Jersey and South Jersey Chapters of National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
- **S-3303/A-4469 (Whelan/Quijano, Mukherji, Jimenez)** - Makes fraudulent use of social security number to collect lottery winnings crime of fourth degree
- **S-3321/A-4927 (Smith, Van Drew, Bateman/Spencer, Rumana)** - Authorizes DEP to require public access to waterfront and adjacent shoreline as condition of waterfront development approvals and CAFRA permits

- **SJR-22/AJR-40 (Weinberg/Johnson, Vainieri Huttie)** - Designates January 14 of each year as "Hannah G. Solomon Day"
- **ACS for A-206, 471, 1663, 2879, 3060, 3108wGR/S-2663 (Green, Spencer, Gusciora, Johnson, McKeon, Giblin, Wimberly, Mainor, Quijano/Turner, Lesniak, Pou)** - Shortens waiting periods for expungement of criminal and other records and information; makes various changes to other expungement procedures and requirements
- **A-311/S-2426 (Bramnick, Diegnan, Wimberly, Gusciora/Ruiz, T. Kean)** - Requires public schools to weight courses in visual and performing arts equally with other courses worth same number of credits in calculating grade point average
- **ACS for A-428/S-393 (Jimenez, Prieto/Sacco, Sarlo)** - Expands DNA database to include samples from disorderly persons who are fingerprinted and permits law enforcement officers to collect certain biological samples
- **A-801wGR/S-861 (Coughlin, Wisniewski, Mazzeo/Vitale, Sacco)** - Directs New Jersey Turnpike Authority and South Jersey Transportation Authority to study and report on potential revenue generating services of rest areas and service plazas
- **A-984/S-1534 (Andrzejczak, Wimberly/Van Drew, Bateman)** - Enhances penalty for tampering with evidence after fleeing the scene of an accident resulting in death
- **A-1455/S-2011 (Diegnan, Mosquera, Caputo, Jasey, Mukherji/Madden, Holzapfel)** - Abigail's Law; requires that newly-manufactured school buses be equipped with sensors
- **A-1462/S-3288 (Diegnan, Wimberly/Gill)** - Requires coin redemption machine operators to disclose fees
- **A-1466 (Diegnan, O'Donnell, Mainor, Garcia)** - Allows for waiver of school bus requirements for mobility assistance vehicle technicians who transport students with medical needs to and from school
- **A-1726wGR/S-308 (Eustace, Lagana, Mosquera, Vainieri Huttie, Wimberly/Gordon)** - Amends "Flood Hazard Area Control Act" to require DEP to take certain actions concerning delineations of flood hazard areas and floodplains
- **A-1812/S-2717 (Mosquera, Mazzeo, Andrzejczak/Cruz-Perez, Oroho, Jones)** - Extends protections of the new vehicle "lemon law" to new farm tractors purchased or leased in New Jersey
- **A-1958/S-1848 (Allen, Van Drew)** - Concerns exemptions from permits for certain agricultural activities under "Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act"
- **A-2597/S-2161 (Singleton, Diegnan, DiMaio/Ruiz, Beach)** - Provides that beginning with the 2016-2017 grade nine class, Advanced Placement computer science course may satisfy a part of the mathematics credits required for high school graduation
- **A-2839/S-2620 (Burzichelli, Space, Phoebus/Oroho, Turner)** - "New Jersey Rural Microenterprise Act"
- **A-2915/S-2035 (Lagana, McKeon, Ciattarelli/Bateman, Barnes)** - "Uniform Trust Code"

- **A-2943/S-1312 (Andrzejczak, DeAngelo, Mazzeo, Quijano, Danielsen/Van Drew, Allen)** - Provides for voluntary contributions by taxpayers on gross income tax returns for active duty members of United States Armed Forces, Reserve components thereof, and National Guard from New Jersey

- **A-3006/S-3272 (Conaway, Singleton, Eustace, DiMaio, Danielsen/Beach, Turner)** - Establishes procedure for consolidating fire districts

- **A-3019/S-1978 (Singleton, Conaway, Andrzejczak, Mazzeo, Garcia, Mosquera/Van Drew, Beach)** - Requires State Employment and Training Commission to prepare annual report on State workforce

- **A-3043/S-1943 (Space, DeAngelo, Egan, Phoebus, Moriarty/Oroho, Van Drew)** - Concerns authority of DOLWD to inspect prevailing wage public work projects

- **A-3044/S-1944 (Space, DeAngelo, Egan, Phoebus, Moriarty/Oroho, Van Drew)**
Requires Commissioner of DOLWD to disseminate certain information to contractors who bid on or perform prevailing wage public work

- **A-3225/S-2333 (Singleton, Rible, Lampitt, Quijano, Pintor Marin, Jimenez/Sweeney)** - Provides for licensure of chiropractic assistants

- **A-3228/S-2499 (Mukherji, Vainieri Huttie, Mosquera, Garcia/Turner)** - Requires sober living homes and other substance abuse aftercare treatment facilities to provide certain notifications to next-of-kin when patient is released from care; designated as "Nick Rohdes' Law"
- **A-3257wGR/S-2125 (Andrzejczak, Mazzeo, Burzichelli/Van Drew)** - Provides that determination by county agriculture development board or State Agriculture Development Committee as to what qualifies as farm-based recreational activity in pinelands protection area is binding on Pinelands Commission

- **A-3276/S-2248 (Mazzeo/Whelan)** - "Mainland Memoriam Act"; directs MVC to create graduated driver's license informational material to be distributed by motor vehicle dealers

- **A-3435wGR/S-2503 (Garcia, Mukherji, Vainieri Huttie, Mainor, Eustace, Mosquera/Stack, Gordon)** - "Boys & Girls Clubs Keystone Law"; permits minors to give consent for behavioral health care

- **A-3850/S-2467 (DeAngelo, Eustace, Mazzeo, Pintor Marin, Benson/Turner, Singer)** - Requires BPU to establish procedures allowing electric power and gas supplier customers to switch energy suppliers

- **A-3927/S-2820 (Andrzejczak, Mazzeo, Taliaferro, Dancer/Van Drew, Oroho)** - Requires drivers to slow down before passing slow moving vehicles; establishes Statewide educational campaign on rural roadway safety; updates agriculture-related motor vehicle laws to reflect current industry practices

- **A-3955/S-2644 (Conaway, Benson, Vainieri Huttie, Munoz, Sumter, Mukherji/Vitale, Codey)** - Requires development and maintenance of database to advise public about open bed availability in residential substance use disorders treatment facilities

- **A-4098/S-2877 (Pinkin, Sumter, Benson/Codey, Greenstein)** - Prohibits sale or distribution of liquid nicotine except in child-resistant containers

- **A-4105/S-2977 (Garcia, Mainor, Mukherji, O'Donnell, Sumter, Rible, A.M. Bucco/Greenstein, Cunningham)** - Expands scope of law governing registration of security guards; designated as "Detective Vincent Santiago's Law"

- **A-4133/S-2997 (Giblin, Pinkin/Cruz-Perez, Allen)** - Allows dispensation of certain nutritional supplements by physician or podiatric physician

- **A-4275wGR/S-2831 (Prieto, Eustace, Lagana, Greenwald, Quijano, Danielsen, Mukherji/Sweeney, Turner, Sarlo)** - "New Jersey Secure Choice Saving Program Act"; establishes retirement savings program for certain workers

- **A-4386wGR/S-3042 (Coughlin, Pinkin, Vitale, Singer)** - Permits candidates for school board to circulate petitions jointly and be bracketed together on ballot; permits short nonpolitical designation of principles on petitions and ballots; provides for study of impact of changes

- **A-4387/S-3016 (Coughlin, Wisniewski, Wimberly/Vitale)** - Requires MVC to allow submission of "Next-of-Kin Registry" information by mail

- **A-4388/S-3041 (Coughlin, Wisniewski/Vitale)** - Designates State Highway 184 in Woodbridge Township as "Bruce Turcotte Memorial Highway"

- **A-4415/S-3279 (Diegnan, Garcia, Pinkin/Turner, Ruiz)** - Establishes State Seal of Biliteracy to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of bilingual proficiency

- **A-4420/S-3056 (Mazzeo, Vainieri Huttie, DeAngelo, Lampitt/Gordon, Greenstein)** - Requires certain notifications for termination of services to persons with developmental disabilities and providers

- **A-4476wGR/S-2876 (Conaway/Codey)** - Requires certain surgical practices and ambulatory care facilities licensed in this State to be owned by hospital or medical school located in the State

- **A-4719/S-3250 (Moriarty, Mosquera, Vainieri Huttie, DeAngelo, Diegnan, Mukherji/Cruz-Perez, Ruiz)** - Extends use of stored driver's license picture for person undergoing chemotherapy or other treatment for certain medical illnesses

- **CC for A-4863/S-3233 (A.M. Bucco, Phoebus, Munoz, Wisniewski, Oliver/A.R. Bucco)** - Requires warning sign to be posted at pontoon boat rental businesses; designated as "Christopher's Law"

- **AJR-112/SJR-86 (Conaway/Weinberg)** - Designates May of each year as "Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Month"

BILLS POCKET VETOED:

- **S-221/A-4155 (Allen, Vitale/Vainieri Huttie, Sumter, Lampitt)** - Prohibits the restraint of prisoners during and immediately after childbirth

- **S-316/A-1739 (Gordon/Eustace, Ciattarelli, Lagana, Gusciora)** - Increases flexibility, clarity, and available tools of optional municipal consolidation process

- **S-564/A-4186 (Smith, Bateman/Eustace, McKeon, Spencer, Benson)** - Establishes "Solar Roof Installation Warranty Program" in EDA and transfers \$2 million from societal benefits charge to initially fund program

- **S-602/A-3254 (Codey, Vitale/Vainieri Huttle, Angelini, Lampitt, Diegnan, Jasey, Conaway, Moriarty)** - Raises minimum age for purchase and sale of tobacco products and electronic smoking devices from 19 to 21
- **SCS for S-726, 1257/ACS for A-1405 (Turner, Cruz-Perez, Beach, T. Kean/Lampitt, Egan, Quijano, Sumter, Danielsen)** - Establishes innovation zone program to stimulate technology industry clusters around New Jersey's research institutions; allows certain technology businesses located in certain innovation zones to receive certain tax credits under Grow New Jersey Assistance Program
- **S-1232/A-3314 (Weinberg, Pennacchio/Johnson, Greenwald, Wimberly, Mosquera)** - Establishes Office of State Dental Director and New Jersey Oral Health Commission
- **S-1279/A-2325 (Rice, Van Drew/Spencer, Muoio, Benson, Pintor Marin)** - Makes FY 2016 supplemental Grants-in-Aid appropriation of \$10 million to DCA for Lead Hazard Control Assistance Fund
- **S-1414/A-2405 (Smith, Bateman/Eustace, Benson, Johnson)** - Concerns low emission and zero emission vehicles; establishes Clean Vehicle Task Force
- **SCS for S-1420/ACS for A-1603 (Beach, Whelan, Smith, Sweeney, Bateman, Thompson/Spencer, Eustace, Quijano, Wimberly)** - Requires paint producers to implement or participate in paint stewardship program
- **S-1436/A-4687 (Rice/Green, Holley)** - Exempts sales to homeowner assistance and recovery programs from realty transfer fees
- **S-1594/A-4044 (Turner/Peterson, Lagana, Rible, Jasey, Wimberly)** - Requires a public school district to provide a daily recess period for students in grades kindergarten through 5
- **S-1961/A-4111 (Codey/McKeon, Jasey, Vainieri Huttle, Garcia)** - Establishes certain minimum and maximum temperatures in emergency shelters, rooming and boarding houses, and certain nursing homes and residential health care facilities
- **S-2143/ACS for A-1682, 3547 (Van Drew, Singer/Wisniewski, Andrzejczak, Webber)** - Establishes time periods for adverse possession of certain property
- **S-2375/A-3700 (Vitale, Singer/Mazzeo, Vainieri Huttle, Lagana, Sumter, A.M. Bucco)** - Provides for licensure of ambulatory care facilities to provide integrated primary care services including behavioral health care
- **S-2491/A-4069 (Smith/Danielsen, Pinkin, Benson)** - Establishes position of State Oceanographer
- **S-2515/A-3269 (Scutari/Mukherji, Burzichelli, McKeon, Garcia)** - Confers title of Acting Associate Justice of the Supreme Court on certain judges of the Superior Court, Appellate Division, temporarily assigned to the Supreme Court
- **SCS for S-2521/ACS for A-3888 (Gill, Allen/Lampitt, Benson, Vainieri Huttle, Eustace)** - Establishes Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Advisory Council
- **S-2623/A-4849 (Turner/Wimberly, Mainor, Johnson)** - Requires law enforcement agencies in this State to establish minority recruitment and selection programs; establishes reporting requirement

- **S-2640/A-4026 (Madden, Pou/Lampitt, Mosquera, Vainieri Huttie)** - Establishes New Jersey Caregiver Task Force to evaluate and provide recommendations on caregiver support services
- **S-2711/A-4128 (Smith, Whelan/Mazzeo, DeAngelo, Spencer, Singleton, McKeon, Daniels, Johnson)** - Permits BPU to approve qualified wind energy project; requires BPU to provide application periods for those projects
- **S-2716/A-4359 (Ruiz, Turner/Pintor Marin, Spencer, Sumter, Caride)** - Requires that school district's request for permission to use unrecognized position title include list of abolished positions and positions in which there have been layoffs and detailed job descriptions for them
- **S-2769/AS for ACS for A-4197, 4206 (Smith, Bateman/Andrzejczak, McKeon, Spencer, Pintor Marin, Dancer, Vainieri Huttie)** - Implements 2014 constitutional dedication of CBT revenues for certain environmental purposes; revises State's open space, farmland, and historic preservation programs
- **S-2793/A-3962 (Whelan/Vainieri Huttie)** - Increases from 17 to 21 public members of New Jersey State Council on the Arts; requires members to be residents of NJ; imposes specific criteria for four new members initially appointed
- **S-2806/A-4913 (Cunningham, Vitale, Singer/Muoio, Spencer)** - Removes restrictions on convicted drug offenders receiving general assistance benefits under Work First New Jersey program
- **S-2878/A-4636 (Stack, Weinberg/Jimenez, Lagana, Mukherji, Vainieri Huttie, Giblin, Moriarty)** - Establishes minimum certified nurse aide-to-resident ratios in nursing homes
- **S-2975/A-4548 (Sarlo, Pou/Wimberly)** - Establishes pilot program in Paterson authorizing non-disclosure of records of certain expungements
- **S-3067/A-4653 (Barnes, Turner/Diegnan, Oliver)** - Requires teachers of health and physical education in grades kindergarten through six in public schools to possess appropriate endorsement to instructional certificate
- **S-3071/A-4639 (Weinberg, Gordon/Vainieri Huttie, Garcia, Eustace, Johnson)**
Establishes Mike Adler Aphasia Task Force to assess needs of persons with aphasia, and their families, and ensure adequate provision of support services and information thereto
- **S-3201/A-3607 (Barnes, Holzapfel/Dancer, McGuckin, Rible, A.M. Bucco)** - Requires interior light of motor vehicle be turned on when stopped by law enforcement under certain circumstances
- **S-3244/A-2740 (Ruiz, Sarlo/Diegnan, Johnson, Jasey)** - Eliminates school district budget per pupil administrative cost limits
- **S-3249/A-4717 (Weinberg, Codey/Johnson, Vainieri Huttie, Eustace, Garcia)** - Requires firearm retailers to sell personalized handguns
- **S-3277/A-4764 (Cruz-Perez/Burzichelli)** - Expands municipal authority to license and inspect residential rental property
- **S-3299/A-4903 (Sweeney, Singer, Vitale/Burzichelli, Rible, Pintor Marin, Mukherji, Lagana, Vainieri Huttie)** -

Maintains property tax exemption for certain nonprofit hospitals with on-site for-profit medical providers; requires these hospitals to pay community service contributions to host municipalities; establishes Nonprofit Hospital Community Service Contribution Study Commission

- **S-3416/A-4808 (Lesniak, Sarlo/Eustace, Gusciora)** - Prohibits possession, transport, import, export, processing, sale, or shipment of parts and products of certain animal species threatened with extinction
- **SJR-77/A-JR104 (Bateman, Whelan/Ciattarelli, McKeon, Eustace)** - Permits county commissioners of registration and boards of election to conduct "Electronic Poll Book Demonstration Project" in certain districts during 2016 elections; requires Division of Elections review and approval of proposed projects
- **A-431/S-2773 (Jimenez/Singer)** - Requires clinical laboratory that provides services for accountable care organization to establish clinical laboratory testing advisory board
- **A-943/S-2967 (Singleton, Conaway, Moriarty, Green, Lampitt, Mazzeo/Van Drew)** - Permits small businesses to qualify for loans from NJEDA for costs of energy audit and making energy efficiency or conservation improvements
- **A-945/S-2402 (Singleton, Lampitt, Schaer, Wimberly, Garcia/Rice, Turner)** - Establishes New Jersey Council on Responsible Fatherhood and Responsible Fatherhood Fund
- **A-964/S-187 (Singleton, DeAngelo, Quijano, Coughlin, Moriarty/Whelan, Madden)** - Requires certain bidders for prevailing wage public work to provide proof that the prevailing wage will be paid
- **A-986/S-247 (Andrzejczak, Benson, Danielsen, Moriarty/Van Drew, Cunningham)** - Establishes telemarketing fraud investigation unit
- **A-1035/S-2040 (Benson, Rible, A.M. Bucco/Scutari, Cardinale)** - Prohibits health insurance carriers from requiring optometrists to become providers with vision care plans as condition of becoming providers in carriers' panel of providers
- **A-1039/S-2310 (Benson, Prieto, Caride, Quijano/Sacco, Greenstein)** - Sets forth certain standards to be followed by law enforcement agencies and fire departments when utilizing drones
- **A-1431/S-1501 (Caride, Singleton, Jasey/Bateman, Addiego)** - Requires State Board of Education regulations regarding school nurse certification to include certain minimum eligibility requirements
- **A-1849/S-1766 (Lampitt, Spencer/Rice)** - Prohibits State Board of Education from limiting number of certain two-year college credits that may be applied towards meeting teacher certification requirements
- **A-2026/S-3317 (Greenwald, Pintor Marin/Sweeney, Oroho)** - Realigning the transfer inheritance tax payment due date to coincide with the payment due dates for State and federal estate taxes
- **A-2583 (DeAngelo, Pintor Marin)** - Requires development of fact sheet about bedbugs to be posted on the Department of Education's website
- **A-2586/S-1796 (DeAngelo, Quijano, Benson/Greenstein)** - Establishes "Energy Infrastructure Study Commission"

- **A-2925/S-1033 (Lagana, O'Scanlon, Burzichelli, Garcia/Weinberg, Oroho, Van Drew)** - Allows modernization for the form of disbursement for certain State government and local unit payments to individuals and business entities
- **A-3460/S-2191 (Conaway, Pinkin, Sumter, Casagrande, Wimberly/Vitale, Cruz-Perez)** - Requires Medicaid coverage for diabetes self-management education, training, services, and equipment for patients diagnosed with diabetes, gestational diabetes, and pre-diabetes
- **A-3806/S-2493 (Singleton, Dancer, Mosquera, Benson/Sweeney, Weinberg)** - Establishes four-year pilot program in Ocean County for electronic monitoring of certain domestic violence offenders; designated as "Lisa's Law"; appropriates \$2.5 million
- **A-4182/S-1995 (Eustace, Sumter, Wimberly, Danielsen, Jimenez/Bateman, Smith)** - Prohibits firearm possession by persons convicted of carjacking, gang criminality, racketeering and terroristic threats
- **A-4271/S-3036 (Conaway, Benson, Pinkin, Wimberly/Vitale, Greenstein)** - Mandates health benefits coverage for opioid analgesics with abuse-deterrent properties
- **A-4343/S-2888 (Schaer, Prieto, Sumter, Danielsen, Johnson/Turner)** - Requires county and municipal police departments to establish cultural diversity training course and plan
- **A-4384/S-3145 (DeAngelo, Pintor Marin, Danielsen, Schaer, Johnson/Whelan)** - Requires BPU to render decision on case within 12 months of final public hearing or hold another public hearing prior to deciding case
- **ACS for A-4576/S-1771 (Johnson, Wimberly, Spencer, Tucker/Turner)** - Requires lowest possible price not exceeding certain cap for inmate telephone calls
- **A-4616/S-2958 (Giblin, DeAngelo, Mukherji/Sweeney)** - Extends by two months seasonal retail consumption alcoholic beverage license
- **A-4652/S-3065 (Benson/Gordon)** - Requires Public Health Counsel to promulgate rules and regulations for use of quality control programs in bio-analytical and clinical laboratories
- **A-4763/SS for SCS for S-2973 (McKeon, Spencer, Pinkin/Smith, Bateman, Greenstein, Codey)** - Revises "Electronic Waste Management Act"
- **A-4772/S-3169 (Burzichelli/Weinberg)** - Permits counties to impose one-percent hotel tax
- **A-4773/S-3146 (Eustace, Garcia, Gusciora/Lesniak)** - Prohibits possession and transport of parts and products of certain animals at PANYNJ airports and port facilities
- **A-4918/S-3301 (Gusciora, S. Kean/Sweeney, Singer)** - Clarifies stadiums and arenas owned by local government entities are exempt from property taxation
- **A-4931/S-3325 (Mazzeo/Sweeney)** - Revises "Casino Property Tax Stabilization Act"

• **NO ACTION TAKEN ON BILLS:**

• **A-3981wGR/S-2572 (Mazzeo, Burzichelli, Andrzejczak/Sweeney, Whelan)** - "Casino Property Taxation Stabilization Act"

• **A-3984wGR/S-2575 (Mazzeo, Burzichelli, Giblin/Sweeney, Whelan)** - Reallocates casino investment alternative tax to Atlantic City to pay debt service on municipal bonds issued

• **A-3985wGR/S-2576 (Mazzeo, Burzichelli, Andrzejczak, Giblin/Sweeney, Whelan)** - Removes provisions of law relating to Atlantic City Alliance

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