



## ***LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST***

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**LAWS OF:** 1998

**CHAPTER:** 92

**NJSA:** 30:4-34

"County adjusters -- appointment"

**BILL NO:** A1678 (Substituted for S963)

**SPONSOR(S):** Russo and Zisa

**DATE INTRODUCED:** February 19, 1998

**COMMITTEE:**

***ASSEMBLY:*** Judiciary

***SENATE:*** ~~~~

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:**No

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**

***ASSEMBLY:*** May 28, 1998

***SENATE:*** June 22, 1998

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** September 1, 1998

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### **THE FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL:** Original

**A1678**

**SPONSORS STATEMENT:** *Yes* (Begins on page 3 of original bill)

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**

**ASSEMBLY:** *Yes*

**SENATE:** *No*

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS:** *No*

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** *No*

**S963**

**SPONSORS STATEMENT:** *Yes* (Begins on page 3 of original bill)

(Bill and Sponsors Statement identical to A1678)

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**

**ASSEMBLY:** *No*

**SENATE:** *Yes* (Identical to Assembly Statement for A1678)

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS:** *No*

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** *No*

**VETO MESSAGE:** *No*

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:** *Yes*

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**THE FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** *No*

**HEARINGS:** *No*

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** *No*

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# ASSEMBLY, No. 1678

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 19, 1998

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman DAVID C. RUSSO**

**District 40 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Assemblyman CHARLES "KEN" ZISA**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator Bucco**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides that county governing body appoints county adjuster if no other county official or employee performs the duties.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/23/1998)**

1 AN ACT concerning county adjusters and amending R.S.30:4-34.

2

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

5

6 1. R.S.30:4-34 is amended to read as follows:

7 30:4-34 In each county where county counsel, county solicitor,  
8 county clerk, county physician or county probation officer, or any of  
9 their assistants is in charge and supervision of the preparation of  
10 papers relating to the commitment of the mentally ill, such person shall  
11 be known as "county adjuster" and such duties shall, except as  
12 otherwise provided in section 2 of P.L.1981, c.403 (C.30:4-34.1),  
13 continue to pertain to the office of such county counsel, county  
14 solicitor, county clerk, county physician or county probation officer or  
15 their successors in office, but, notwithstanding the foregoing, in case  
16 any other county official or employee shall be at the time of the  
17 adoption of this act, in charge and supervision of the preparation of  
18 papers relating to the commitment of the mentally ill, the governing  
19 body of the county may designate that county official or employee as  
20 county adjuster. In all other counties the [judge of the Superior Court,  
21 with the consent of the] county governing body[, ] shall designate  
22 some county official or employee as county adjuster.

23 The county adjuster shall have charge and supervision of the  
24 preparation of papers relating to the commitment of the mentally ill in  
25 such county, and in cases arising in other counties in which the legal  
26 settlement appears to be in his county. Classification under civil  
27 service rules shall not be affected by reason of such designation or  
28 additional duties, and additional compensation, if any, for such  
29 services may be fixed by the county governing body and paid in the  
30 same manner as other county employees are paid. Each county  
31 governing body shall notify the various institutions for the mentally ill  
32 of the name and address of the county adjuster.

33 The judge of the Superior Court within the county may appoint the  
34 county adjuster to act as referee for the purpose of taking testimony  
35 bearing solely on the question of legal settlement and the financial  
36 ability of the mentally ill patient or his legally responsible relatives to  
37 pay the cost of maintenance and shall make return to the court of his  
38 findings, conclusions and recommendations. Such findings,  
39 conclusions and recommendations shall be subject to the approval of  
40 the court and shall not be effective until incorporated in an appropriate  
41 order or judgment of the court. The county adjuster, acting as such

**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 referee, may subpoena witnesses and compel their attendance on forms  
2 approved by the court.  
3 (cf: P.L.1995,c.155,s.9)

4

5 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

6

7

8

STATEMENT

9

10 This bill removes the authority of a judge of the Superior Court to  
11 appoint the county adjuster in certain counties ( those counties where  
12 another county official or employee is not already in charge of the  
13 preparation of papers relating to the commitment of the mentally ill)  
14 and leaves the responsibility with the county governing body to  
15 appoint the county adjuster. The judge of the Superior Court will  
16 have no role in the initial appointment process.

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14 solicitor, county clerk, county physician or county probation officer or  
15 their successors in office, but, notwithstanding the foregoing, in case  
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17 adoption of this act, in charge and supervision of the preparation of  
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20 county adjuster. In all other counties the [judge of the Superior Court,  
21 with the consent of the] county governing body[, ] shall designate  
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23 The county adjuster shall have charge and supervision of the  
24 preparation of papers relating to the commitment of the mentally ill in  
25 such county, and in cases arising in other counties in which the legal  
26 settlement appears to be in his county. Classification under civil  
27 service rules shall not be affected by reason of such designation or  
28 additional duties, and additional compensation, if any, for such  
29 services may be fixed by the county governing body and paid in the  
30 same manner as other county employees are paid. Each county  
31 governing body shall notify the various institutions for the mentally ill  
32 of the name and address of the county adjuster.

33 The judge of the Superior Court within the county may appoint the  
34 county adjuster to act as referee for the purpose of taking testimony  
35 bearing solely on the question of legal settlement and the financial  
36 ability of the mentally ill patient or his legally responsible relatives to  
37 pay the cost of maintenance and shall make return to the court of his  
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14 and leaves the responsibility with the county governing body to  
15 appoint the county adjuster. The judge of the Superior Court will  
16 have no role in the initial appointment process.



ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1678**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 9, 1998

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1678.

This bill removes the authority of a judge of the Superior Court to appoint the county adjuster in certain counties ( those counties where another county official or employee is not already in charge of the preparation of papers relating to the commitment of the mentally ill) and leaves the responsibility with the county governing body to appoint the county adjuster. The judge of the Superior Court will have no role in the initial appointment process.

**SENATE, No. 963**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**208th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MARCH 30, 1998

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator ANTHONY R. BUCCO**

**District 25 (Morris)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides that county governing body appoints county adjuster if no other county official or employee performs the duties.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



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14 solicitor, county clerk, county physician or county probation officer or  
15 their successors in office, but, notwithstanding the foregoing, in case  
16 any other county official or employee shall be at the time of the  
17 adoption of this act, in charge and supervision of the preparation of  
18 papers relating to the commitment of the mentally ill, the governing  
19 body of the county may designate that county official or employee as  
20 county adjuster. In all other counties the [judge of the Superior Court,  
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11 another county official or employee is not already in charge of the  
12 preparation of papers relating to the commitment of the mentally ill)  
13 and leaves the responsibility with the county governing body to  
14 appoint the county adjuster. The judge of the Superior Court will  
15 have no role in the initial appointment process.

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 963**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 14, 1998

The Senate Judiciary Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No.963.

This bill would remove language from R.S.30:4-34 which provides for the designation of a county adjuster by a judge of the Superior Court with the consent of the county governing body under certain circumstances. The bill would clarify that in all circumstances the designation of a county adjuster is the responsibility of the county governing body. The county adjuster is the official in each county charged with supervising the preparation of documents dealing with the commitment of the mentally ill.

**NEWS RELEASE**

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor  
609-777-2600

RELEASE: September 1, 1998

Gov. Christie Whitman has signed the following pieces of legislation:

**A-317**, sponsored by Assembly Members Nia Gill (D-Essex) and John Kelly (R-Bergen/ Passaic), permits municipalities to provide certain funds for low and moderate income housing. The bill clarifies the Fair Housing Act to permit municipalities to use public monies to make donations, grants or loans of public funds for the rehabilitation of deficient housing units to be used as low or moderate income housing.

**A-371**, sponsored by Assembly Member Louis Bassano (R-Essex/Union), allows manicure shops to be licensed with oversight by a licensed manicurist. The bill allows a manicurist shop to qualify for a license without oversight of a licensed barber, beautician or cosmetologist-hair stylist.

**A-1104**, sponsored by Assembly Members Guy Gregg (R-Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris) and Marion Crecco (R-Essex/Passaic) and Senators Louis Kosco (R-Bergen) and John Girgenti (D-Passaic), raises the maximum age for membership in New Jersey State Firemen's Association (NJFSA) from 40 to 45 years of age. The legislation was generated by the NJFSA.

**A-1642**, sponsored by Assembly Members Paul DiGaetano (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and David Russo (R-Bergen/Passaic) and Senator Gerald Cardinale (R-Bergen), permits an annual budget increase and salary increases for certain superintendents of elections and commissioners of registration. The bill raises the total allowable expenses for superintendent of elections, commissioner of registration and custodian of voting machines from \$1.5 million to \$2 million. The bill also removes the salary cap for those positions and enables county governing bodies to determine the salaries.

**A-1678**, sponsored by Assembly Member David Russo (R-Bergen/Passaic) and Charles Zisa (D-Bergen), provides that county governing bodies appoint a county adjuster if no other county official or employee performs the duties. Current law requires that a Superior Court Judge must designate the adjuster. The legislation relieves the Judiciary of a duty more appropriate to county government. The county adjuster is responsible for the preparation of papers relating to the commitment of the mentally ill.

**A-1710**, sponsored by Assembly Members Alan Augustine (R- Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and Richard Bagger (R- Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union), Senate President Don DiFrancesco (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and Senator Walter Kavanaugh (R-Morris/Somerset), permits certain firefighters to become members of New Jersey State Firemen's Association (NJFSA). The purpose of the bill is to ensure that firefighters who were eligible to join the NJFSA during the open period of June 21, 1988 through May 31, 1989 have ample opportunity

to apply for relief, support and benefits provided to members of the NJFSA.