

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS of 1999

CHAPTER: 91

NJSA:30:6E-1 to 30:6E-8
(Office of Disability Services -- in DHS)

BILL NO: A808(Substituted for S1274 -- 1st Reprint)

SPONSOR(S):Vandervalk and Rooney

DATE INTRODUCED:Pre-filed

COMMITTEE:

ASSEMBLY: Senior Issues and Community Services

SENATE:Senior Citizens, Veterans' Affairs & Human Services

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:Yes

DATES OF PASSAGE:

ASSEMBLY:March 15, 1999

SENATE:January 12, 1999

DATE OF APPROVAL:May 3, 1999

THE FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL: *Yes*1st Reprint
(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

A808

SPONSORS STATEMENT: *Yes* (Begins on page 11 of original bill)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY: *Yes*

SENATE: *Yes*

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: *No*

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: *Yes*

S1274

SPONSORS STATEMENT: *Yes (Begins on page 11 of original bill)*

Bill and Sponsor's Statement identical to A808

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY: *No*

SENATE: *Yes*

Identical to Senate Statement for A808

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: *No*

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: *Yes*

Identical to Legislative fiscal Estimate for A808

FIRST REPRINT (last version) *Yes*

GOVERNOR'S ACTIONS

VETO MESSAGE: *No*

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: *Yes*

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: *No*

HEARINGS: *No*

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: *No*

Title 30
Subtitle 4D
Disability Services
Chapter 6E (New)
Office of Disability
Services
§§1-6,9,15
C. 30:6E-1
To
30:6E-8

P.L. 1999, CHAPTER 91, *approved May 3, 1999*
Assembly, No. 808 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** establishing the Office of Disability Services in the
2 Department of Human Services and revising parts of the statutory
3 law.

4

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

7

8 1. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. New Jersey citizens with disabilities want the same things in life
10 as the other residents of this State: to be productive citizens who
11 contribute to the communities in which they live, to be good family
12 members and good neighbors, and to work hard at jobs that provide
13 satisfaction and independence.

14 b. These individuals deserve the recognition and support of State,
15 county and local governments to protect their rights and to reach their
16 full potential.

17 c. To fulfill this responsibility, State government should establish
18 a designated agency, to work cooperatively with appropriate agencies
19 in each county, which is empowered to serve citizens with disabilities
20 effectively so that comprehensive programs can be developed and
21 coordinated on a Statewide basis to support the efforts of these
22 citizens to overcome those barriers which their disabilities may pose
23 to reaching their goals.

24

25 2. (New section) As used in this act:

26 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

27 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

28 "Director" means the Director of the Office of Disability Services
29 in the Department of Human Services.

30 "Office" means the Office of Disability Services in the Department
31 of Human Services.

32

33 3. (New section) a. There is established an Office of Disability

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SSV committee amendments adopted September 24, 1998.

1 Services in the Department of Human Services.

2 b. The office shall not subsume within it any other office,
3 commission or other agency of State government, nor shall funds
4 appropriated for the operation of any other office, commission or
5 other agency of State government be expended for the establishment
6 or operation of the Office of Disability Services.

7

8 4. (New section) The administrator and head of the office shall be
9 a director who shall be known as the Director of the Office of
10 Disability Services. The director shall be a person qualified by training
11 and experience to perform the duties of the office and shall devote his
12 entire time to the performance of those duties. The director shall be
13 appointed by the commissioner.

14 The commissioner shall appoint and remove officers and employees
15 of the office subject to the provisions of Title 11A of the New Jersey
16 Statutes and other applicable statutes as are necessary to enable the
17 office to perform its duties pursuant to this act and he shall fix their
18 compensation within the limits of available appropriations and as is
19 provided by law. ¹In order to utilize the State's disabled citizens in
20 the work of the Office of Disability Services to the maximum extent
21 possible, the commissioner or director, as appropriate, also may
22 appoint, retain or employ officers or consultants on a contract basis or
23 otherwise, as deemed necessary, and employ other qualified personnel
24 who shall be in the noncompetitive division of the career service of the
25 Civil Service.¹

26

27 5. (New section) a. The office shall serve as the single point of
28 entry within State government for persons with disabilities who are
29 seeking assistance and who do not meet the requirements for
30 disability-specific programs currently located in the department or
31 another agency of State government. The office shall operate a
32 toll-free telephone service to provide a comprehensive information and
33 referral system for persons with disabilities and their families and those
34 who serve and advocate for them, as well as members of the general
35 public, and shall periodically publish a Statewide directory of disability
36 services.

37 b. The office shall operate as the State-level coordinating body
38 between all agencies of State government providing services to
39 persons with disabilities and shall serve as a locus within State
40 government for the interests of persons with disabilities and their
41 families.

42 c. The office shall serve as the primary liaison within State
43 government to the county offices for the disabled and shall provide
44 technical assistance to the county offices and seek to establish an
45 electronic network which connects it to each of the county offices. In
46 addition, the director shall work with those counties which do not

1 maintain an office for the disabled to establish such an office and shall
2 seek federal, foundation and other grant funding to establish or
3 enhance county offices for the disabled.

4 d. The office shall administer the personal assistance services
5 program established pursuant to the "Personal Assistance Services
6 Act," P.L.1987, c.350 (C.30:4G-13 et seq.) and seek to coordinate all
7 other publicly funded programs which provide personal assistance or
8 other home-based services to persons with disabilities. The office shall
9 also operate such State, federal or foundation-funded demonstration
10 programs as may be determined by the commissioner.

11 e. The commissioner shall establish an advisory and policy
12 development board to make recommendations to the director on policy
13 and operations of the office. The membership of the board shall reflect
14 a broad spectrum of disabilities and shall include representation from
15 among the following: persons with disabilities, family members of
16 persons with disabilities, service providers and organizations or
17 agencies which advocate for persons with disabilities. The members
18 of the board shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to
19 reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of
20 their duties.

21

22 6. (New section) The commissioner shall report annually to the
23 Governor and the Legislature, which report, at a minimum, shall:
24 summarize the activities of the office for the preceding fiscal year;
25 document significant problems affecting persons with disabilities when
26 accessing public services; indicate and analyze trends in the systems of
27 care and services for persons with disabilities; and present any
28 recommendations to further the State's capacity to provide services
29 to, and advocate for the rights of, persons with disabilities, including
30 such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the
31 commissioner desires to present.

32

33 7. Section 3 of P.L.1987, c.350 (C.30:4G-15) is amended to read
34 as follows:

35 3. There is established a personal assistance services program in
36 the Office of Disability Services in the Department of Human Services,
37 to be administered by county designated agencies in each of the 21
38 counties. The program, within the limits of funds appropriated or
39 otherwise made available to it, shall assist adults with chronic physical
40 disabilities in the performance of routine, nonmedical tasks that are
41 directly related to maintaining their health and independence, in order
42 to enable these persons to be employed or receive training or
43 education related to employment or to support community-based
44 independent living. The program shall seek to promote the greatest

1 possible degree of self-control and self-direction on the part of each
2 recipient of services.

3 (cf: P.L.1993, c.215, s.3)

4

5 8. Section 8 of P.L.1987, c.350 (C.30:4G-20) is amended to read
6 as follows:

7 8. a. There is established the State Consumer Advisory Council on
8 Personal Assistance Services in the Office of Disability Services in the
9 department, which shall consist of 21 members appointed by the
10 commissioner, one from each county, at least 75 percent of whom are
11 consumers of personal assistance services.

12 Vacancies in the membership of the advisory council shall be filled
13 in the same manner provided for the original appointments. The
14 members of the advisory council shall serve without compensation but
15 shall be reimbursed for the reasonable expenses necessarily incurred in
16 the performance of their duties.

17 b. The advisory council shall organize no later than 30 days after
18 the appointment of its members and shall select a chairman from
19 among its members and a secretary who need not be a member of the
20 advisory council.

21 c. The department shall provide such stenographic, clerical and
22 other administrative assistants, and such professional staff, as the
23 advisory council requires to carry out its work.

24 d. It shall be the responsibility of the advisory council to:

25 (1) Advise the commissioner on matters pertaining to personal
26 assistance services and the development of the personal assistance
27 services program, upon the commissioner's request;

28 (2) Review the rules adopted for the personal assistance services
29 program and make recommendations to the commissioner thereon;

30 (3) Evaluate the effectiveness of the personal assistance services
31 program in meeting its objectives and share that evaluation with the
32 commissioner; and

33 (4) Actively explore innovative service delivery models to enhance
34 the consumer-driven nature of the personal assistance services
35 program.

36 (cf: P.L.1993, c.215, s.8)

37

38 9. (New section) The director or other chief administrative officer
39 of any public office of the Office of Disability Services shall:

40 a. cause copies of the voter registration forms and instructions
41 provided for under subsections e. and f. of section 16 of P.L.1974,
42 c.30 (C.19:31-6.4) and the declination form provided for in subsection
43 b. of section 26 of P.L.1994, c.182 (C.19:31-6.11) to be distributed at
44 each such office to each person appearing in person thereat to apply
45 for services or assistance provided thereby or to seek a recertification,
46 renewal or change of address relative to the assistance provided at

1 such office. An employee of the office shall inquire of every such
2 person whether the person, if not already registered to vote from the
3 place of his or her present residence, wishes to be so registered and
4 shall inform the person that whether or not the applicant chooses to
5 register will not affect the person's eligibility for those services. The
6 employee shall subsequently review the forms to determine whether or
7 not the person wishes to register to vote. If the person does not wish
8 to register, the employee shall provide the person with any assistance
9 necessary to complete the declination form and then inform the person
10 that the form shall be retained by the employee. If the person wishes
11 to register, the employee shall provide the person with any assistance
12 necessary in completing the voter registration form; shall inform the
13 applicant that the applicant may leave the completed form with the
14 employee or mail it personally to the Secretary of State; and if the
15 applicant chooses to leave the form, shall accept the completed form,
16 stamp or otherwise mark the lower right hand corner of the document
17 with the date on which it was so received, and forward it to the
18 Secretary of State. The employee shall provide to each applicant who
19 does not decline to register to vote the same degree of assistance with
20 regard to the completion of the voter registration form as is provided
21 by the office with regard to the completion of its own forms, unless
22 the applicant refuses such assistance;

23 b. provide for the continuous supply of the forms and instructions
24 specified in subsection a. of this section to every office which provides
25 assistance to persons with disabilities pursuant to P.L. ,

26 c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill);
27 c. provide the forms and instructions specified in subsection a. of this
28 section in both the English and Spanish languages to the offices which
29 are located in any county in which bilingual sample ballots must be
30 provided pursuant to R.S.19:14-21, R.S.19:49-4 or section 2 of
31 P.L.1965, c.29 (C.19:23-22.4);

32 d. provide for the collection of completed voter registration forms
33 by any employee of the office for the transmittal of the forms to the
34 Secretary of State;

35 e. provide that the forms, instructions and assistance specified in
36 subsection a. of this section shall be provided to any person with a
37 disability who receives assistance or services at that person's home
38 from an employee of the office;

39 f. inform each employee of the office who assists in registering a
40 person to vote that that employee shall not:

41 (1) seek to influence an applicant's political preference or party
42 registration;

43 (2) display any such political preference or party allegiance;

44 (3) make any statement to an applicant or take any action the
45 purpose or effect of which is to discourage the applicant from
46 registering to vote; or

1 (4) make any statement to an applicant or take any action the
2 purpose or effect of which is to lead the applicant to believe that a
3 decision to register or not to register has any bearing on the
4 availability of services or benefits; and

5 g. make certain that no information relating to a declination to
6 register to vote by an individual in connection with any type of
7 application for service made by that individual at any office is used for
8 any purpose other than voter registration.

9
10 10. Section 26 of P.L.1994, c.182 (C.19:31-6.11) is amended to
11 read as follows:

12 26. a. As used in this section, "voter registration agency" means:

13 Any agency or office serving as a food stamp issuer, pursuant to
14 P.L.1988, c.79 (C.44:8-153 et seq.) and the "Food Stamp Act of
15 1977," Pub.L.95-113 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.);

16 Any agency or office providing or administering assistance under
17 the "New Jersey Medical Assistance and Health Services Program,"
18 pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.) and 42 U.S.C. s.1395
19 et seq.;

20 Any agency or office distributing food pursuant to the special
21 supplemental food program for women, infants and children (WIC),
22 established pursuant to P.L.1987, c.261 (C.26:1A-36.1 et seq.) and
23 Pub.L. 95-267 (42 U.S.C. s.1786);

24 Any agency or office administering assistance under the ["Aid to
25 Families With Dependent Children Program," established pursuant to
26 P.L.1959, c.86 (C.44:10-1) and 42 U.S.C. s.601 et seq.] Work First
27 New Jersey program established pursuant to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-
28 55 et seq.);

29 Any public office of the Division of Developmental Disabilities,
30 established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1985, c.145 (C.30:6D-24), in
31 the Department of Human Services;

32 Any public office of the Office of Disability Services, established
33 pursuant to section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the
34 Legislature as this bill), in the Department of Human Services;

35 Any recruitment office of the Armed Forces of the United States,
36 subject to any agreement between this State and the Secretary of
37 Defense of the United States for the joint development and
38 implementation, as provided under subsection (c) of section 7 of
39 Pub.L.103-31 (42 U.S.C. s. 1973gg-6), of procedures for applying at
40 those offices to register to vote;

41 Any office of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services of
42 the New Jersey Department of Labor;

43 Any office of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
44 of the New Jersey Department of Human Services;

45 Any county welfare agency or county board of social services
46 established pursuant to the provisions of chapter 1 or chapter 4 of

1 Title 44 of the Revised Statutes;

2 The office of the commissioner of registration in the several
3 counties of this State; and

4 Any office of the municipal clerk in the several municipalities of this
5 State.

6 b. With each voter registration form and instructions provided to
7 the chief administrative officer at each voter registration agency under
8 subsections e. and f. of section 16 of P.L.1974, c.30 (C.19:31-6.4), the
9 Secretary of State shall provide at the same time a declination form
10 that includes:

11 (1) the question: "If you are not registered to vote where you live
12 now, would you like to apply to register to vote here today?";

13 (2) the statement: "Applying to register or declining to register to
14 vote will not affect the amount of assistance that you will be provided
15 by this agency.";

16 (3) boxes for the applicant to check to indicate whether the
17 applicant would or would not like to register to vote, together with the
18 statement "IF YOU DO NOT CHECK EITHER BOX, YOU WILL
19 BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE DECIDED NOT TO REGISTER TO
20 VOTE AT THIS TIME.";

21 (4) the statement: "If you would like help in filling out the voter
22 registration application form, we will help you. The decision to seek
23 or accept help is yours. You may fill out the application form in
24 private.";

25 (5) the statement: "If you believe that someone has interfered with
26 your right to register or to decline to register to vote, your right to
27 privacy in deciding whether to register or in applying to register to
28 vote, or your right to choose your own political party or other political
29 preference, you may file a complaint with the Secretary of State."
30 (insert address and current telephone number); and

31 (6) the statement: IF YOU DECLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE
32 AT THIS TIME, YOUR DECISION WILL REMAIN
33 CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL BE USED ONLY FOR VOTER
34 REGISTRATION PURPOSES. IF YOU DO REGISTER TO VOTE,
35 THE WAY IN WHICH YOU DO SO WILL REMAIN
36 CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL BE USED ONLY FOR VOTER
37 REGISTRATION PURPOSES.

38 c. The Secretary of State shall cause to be prepared declination
39 forms in the form provided for by subsection b. of this section in both
40 the English and Spanish languages and shall provide such forms to the
41 chief administrative officer of each voter registration agency which has
42 an office in any county in which there is at least one election district
43 in which bilingual sample ballots must be provided pursuant to
44 R.S.19:14-21, R.S.19:49-4 or section 2 of P.L.1965, c.29
45 (C.19:23-22.4).

46 d. The Secretary of State shall adopt, pursuant to consultation

1 with the chief administrative officers at voter registration agencies,
2 regulations for the prompt return of the completed voter registration
3 forms, but in no case shall the forms be returned later than the fifth day
4 following the date on which the completed forms are received by the
5 voter registration agencies.

6 e. All registration forms received by the Secretary of State in the
7 mail or forwarded to the Secretary of State by employees or agents of
8 the voter registration agencies shall be forwarded to the commissioner
9 of registration in the county of the registrant.

10 f. Each completed declination form received by a voter
11 registration agency shall be kept confidential for a period of at least
12 two years. The Secretary of State shall determine, pursuant to
13 consultation with the chief administrative officers at voter registration
14 agencies, which office or agency shall retain the declination forms.
15 (cf: P.L.1994, c.182, s.26)

16

17 11. Section 2 of P.L.1995, c.318 (C.26:2B-37) is amended to read
18 as follows:

19 2. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall establish
20 an "Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing
21 and Disabled" in consultation with the program advisory committee
22 established pursuant to this section and in consultation with and after
23 review by the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

24 There is established a program advisory committee to advise the
25 commissioner on the establishment and operation of the "Alcohol and
26 Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Disabled."
27 The members of the advisory committee shall be appointed by the
28 commissioner and shall consist of five members who are either deaf,
29 hard of hearing, or disabled, two members of the public with an
30 interest in issues relating to alcohol and drug abuse and one
31 representative each from the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and
32 Drug Abuse, the Developmental Disabilities Council, the Division of
33 Vocational Rehabilitation Services in the Department of Labor, and
34 the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Office of
35 Disability Services in the Department of Human Services. The
36 commissioner shall serve as an ex officio member of the committee.

37 (cf: P.L.1995, c.318, s.2)

38

39 12. Section 3 of P.L.1981, c.488 (C.30:6-25) is amended to read
40 as follows:

41 3. There is established in the Department of Human Services, the
42 Commodities and Services Council for blind and other severely
43 handicapped persons. The council shall consist of the Director of the
44 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services; the Director of the
45 Office of Purchase and Property; the Chief of the Bureau of State Use
46 Industries; the Director of the Office of Development for Small

1 Businesses and Women and Minority Businesses in the Department of
2 Commerce[, Energy] and Economic Development; the Director of the
3 Division of Developmental Disabilities and the Director of the Office
4 of Disability Services in the Department of Human Services; the
5 Executive Director of the Commission for the Blind and Visually
6 Impaired; the President of the New Jersey Association of
7 Rehabilitation Facilities; or their designees; three citizens as at-large
8 members, at least one of whom shall be a blind person, and at least one
9 of whom shall represent the private business sector. The at-large
10 members shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and
11 consent of the Senate, for terms of three years, except that of the first
12 at-large members appointed, one shall be appointed for a term of three
13 years, one for a term of two years, and one for a term of one year.
14 (cf: P.L.1991, c.147, s.3)

15

16 13. Section 3 of P.L.1949, c.280 (C.39:4-206) is amended to read
17 as follows:

18 3. The director shall issue to such applicant, also, a placard of
19 such size and design as shall be determined by the director in
20 consultation with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
21 in the Department of Labor and the Office of Disability Services in the
22 Department of Human Services, indicating that a handicapped person
23 identification card has been issued to the person designated therein,
24 which shall be displayed in such manner as the director shall determine
25 on the motor vehicle used to transport the handicapped person, when
26 the vehicle is parked overtime or in special parking places established
27 for use by handicapped persons.

28 Notwithstanding any provision of [this act] P.L.1949, c.280
29 (C.39:4-204 et seq.) to the contrary, the chief of police of each
30 municipality in this State shall issue to any person who has temporarily
31 lost the use of one or more limbs or is temporarily disabled as to be
32 unable to ambulate without the aid of an assisting device or whose
33 mobility is otherwise temporarily limited, as certified by a physician
34 with a plenary license to practice medicine and surgery or a podiatrist
35 licensed to practice in this State or a bordering state, or a physician
36 stationed at a military or naval installation located in this State who is
37 licensed to practice in any state, a temporary placard of not more than
38 six months' duration. Each temporary handicapped placard issued
39 under the provisions of this section shall set forth the date on which it
40 shall become invalid.

41 The temporary placard shall be granted upon written certification
42 by a physician with a plenary license to practice medicine and surgery
43 or a podiatrist licensed to practice in this State or a bordering state or
44 a physician stationed at a military or naval installation located in this
45 State who is licensed to practice in any state that the person meets the
46 conditions constituting temporary disability as provided in this section.

1 This certification shall be provided on a standard form to be developed
2 by the director in consultation with local chiefs of police and
3 representatives of the handicapped. The form shall contain only those
4 conditions constituting temporary disability as are provided in this
5 section. The physical presence of the handicapped person shall not be
6 required for the issuance of a temporary handicapped placard.

7 The placard may be renewed one time at the discretion of the
8 issuing authority for a period of not more than six months' duration.
9 The placard shall be displayed on the motor vehicle used by the
10 temporarily handicapped person and shall give the person the right to
11 park overtime or to use special parking places established for use by
12 handicapped persons in any municipality of this State.

13 The fee for the issuance of such temporary or permanent placard
14 issued pursuant to this section shall be \$4.00 and payable to the
15 Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

16 The director may, in addition, issue license plates bearing the
17 national wheelchair symbol for:

18 a. Not more than two motor vehicles owned, operated or leased
19 by a handicapped person or by any person furnishing transportation on
20 his behalf; or

21 b. Any two motorcycles owned, operated or leased by a
22 handicapped person.

23 The fee for the issuance of such plates shall be \$10.00 for each
24 vehicle.

25 (cf: P.L.1997, c.267, s.2)

26

27 14. Section 2 of P.L.1975, c.224 (C.52:32-15) is amended to read
28 as follows:

29 2. To carry out the purpose of section 1 of [this act] P.L.1975,
30 c.224 (C.52:32-14) the Department of Transportation shall, within 30
31 days of the enactment of [this act] P.L.1975, c.224 (C.52:32-14 et
32 seq.), and periodically thereafter as necessary, after consultation with
33 the Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services of
34 the Department of Labor [and Industry] and the Director of the Office
35 of Disability Services and the chairman of the State Commission for
36 the Blind and Visually Impaired of the Department of [Institutions and
37 Agencies] Human Services, prescribe standards, which shall include,
38 but not be limited to, standards of drainage, slope gradient, width, and
39 slip-resistant qualities which will assure that a sidewalk will
40 accommodate a person in a wheelchair or other handicapped persons.
41 All agencies and instrumentalities of State and local government, and
42 every other person, firm, corporation or association shall comply with
43 these standards and the provisions of [this act] P.L.1975, c.224
44 (C.52:32-14 et seq.) when undertaking construction or reconstruction
45 of streets, curbs or sidewalks.

46 (cf: P.L.1975, c.224, s.2)

1 15. The commissioner shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant
2 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
3 et seq.) to effectuate the purposes of this act.

4

5 16. This act shall take effect immediately.

6

7

8

9

10 Establishes Office of Disability Services in DHS.

ASSEMBLY, No. 808

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1998 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CHARLOTTE VANDERVALK

District 39 (Bergen)

Assemblyman JOHN E. ROONEY

District 39 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Weinberg

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Office of Disability Services in DHS.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/30/1998)

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5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
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8 1. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that:

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12 members and good neighbors, and to work hard at jobs that provide
13 satisfaction and independence.

14 b. These individuals deserve the recognition and support of State,
15 county and local governments to protect their rights and to reach their
16 full potential.

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38 other agency of State government be expended for the establishment
39 or operation of the Office of Disability Services.

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42 a director who shall be known as the Director of the Office of
43 Disability Services. The director shall be a person qualified by training

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 and experience to perform the duties of the office and shall devote his
2 entire time to the performance of those duties. The director shall be
3 appointed by the commissioner.

4 The commissioner shall appoint and remove officers and employees
5 of the office subject to the provisions of Title 11A of the New Jersey
6 Statutes and other applicable statutes as are necessary to enable the
7 office to perform its duties pursuant to this act and he shall fix their
8 compensation within the limits of available appropriations and as is
9 provided by law.

10

11 5. (New section) a. The office shall serve as the single point of
12 entry within State government for persons with disabilities who are
13 seeking assistance and who do not meet the requirements for
14 disability-specific programs currently located in the department or
15 another agency of State government. The office shall operate a
16 toll-free telephone service to provide a comprehensive information and
17 referral system for persons with disabilities and their families and those
18 who serve and advocate for them, as well as members of the general
19 public, and shall periodically publish a Statewide directory of disability
20 services.

21 b. The office shall operate as the State-level coordinating body
22 between all agencies of State government providing services to
23 persons with disabilities and shall serve as a locus within State
24 government for the interests of persons with disabilities and their
25 families.

26 c. The office shall serve as the primary liaison within State
27 government to the county offices for the disabled and shall provide
28 technical assistance to the county offices and seek to establish an
29 electronic network which connects it to each of the county offices. In
30 addition, the director shall work with those counties which do not
31 maintain an office for the disabled to establish such an office and shall
32 seek federal, foundation and other grant funding to establish or
33 enhance county offices for the disabled.

34 d. The office shall administer the personal assistance services
35 program established pursuant to the "Personal Assistance Services
36 Act," P.L.1987, c.350 (C.30:4G-13 et seq.) and seek to coordinate all
37 other publicly funded programs which provide personal assistance or
38 other home-based services to persons with disabilities. The office shall
39 also operate such State, federal or foundation-funded demonstration
40 programs as may be determined by the commissioner.

41 e. The commissioner shall establish an advisory and policy
42 development board to make recommendations to the director on policy
43 and operations of the office. The membership of the board shall reflect
44 a broad spectrum of disabilities and shall include representation from
45 among the following: persons with disabilities, family members of
46 persons with disabilities, service providers and organizations or

1 agencies which advocate for persons with disabilities. The members
2 of the board shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to
3 reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of
4 their duties.

5
6 6. (New section) The commissioner shall report annually to the
7 Governor and the Legislature, which report, at a minimum, shall:
8 summarize the activities of the office for the preceding fiscal year;
9 document significant problems affecting persons with disabilities when
10 accessing public services; indicate and analyze trends in the systems of
11 care and services for persons with disabilities; and present any
12 recommendations to further the State's capacity to provide services
13 to, and advocate for the rights of, persons with disabilities, including
14 such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the
15 commissioner desires to present.

16
17 7. Section 3 of P.L.1987, c.350 (C.30:4G-15) is amended to read
18 as follows:

19 3. There is established a personal assistance services program in
20 the Office of Disability Services in the Department of Human Services,
21 to be administered by county designated agencies in each of the 21
22 counties. The program, within the limits of funds appropriated or
23 otherwise made available to it, shall assist adults with chronic physical
24 disabilities in the performance of routine, nonmedical tasks that are
25 directly related to maintaining their health and independence, in order
26 to enable these persons to be employed or receive training or
27 education related to employment or to support community-based
28 independent living. The program shall seek to promote the greatest
29 possible degree of self-control and self-direction on the part of each
30 recipient of services.

31 (cf: P.L.1993, c.215, s.3)

32
33 8. Section 8 of P.L.1987, c.350 (C.30:4G-20) is amended to read
34 as follows:

35 8. a. There is established the State Consumer Advisory Council on
36 Personal Assistance Services in the Office of Disability Services in the
37 department, which shall consist of 21 members appointed by the
38 commissioner, one from each county, at least 75 percent of whom are
39 consumers of personal assistance services.

40 Vacancies in the membership of the advisory council shall be filled
41 in the same manner provided for the original appointments. The
42 members of the advisory council shall serve without compensation but
43 shall be reimbursed for the reasonable expenses necessarily incurred in
44 the performance of their duties.

45 b. The advisory council shall organize no later than 30 days after
46 the appointment of its members and shall select a chairman from

1 among its members and a secretary who need not be a member of the
2 advisory council.

3 c. The department shall provide such stenographic, clerical and
4 other administrative assistants, and such professional staff, as the
5 advisory council requires to carry out its work.

6 d. It shall be the responsibility of the advisory council to:

7 (1) Advise the commissioner on matters pertaining to personal
8 assistance services and the development of the personal assistance
9 services program, upon the commissioner's request;

10 (2) Review the rules adopted for the personal assistance services
11 program and make recommendations to the commissioner thereon;

12 (3) Evaluate the effectiveness of the personal assistance services
13 program in meeting its objectives and share that evaluation with the
14 commissioner; and

15 (4) Actively explore innovative service delivery models to enhance
16 the consumer-driven nature of the personal assistance services
17 program.

18 (cf: P.L.1993, c.215, s.8)

19

20 9. (New section) The director or other chief administrative officer
21 of any public office of the Office of Disability Services shall:

22 a. cause copies of the voter registration forms and instructions
23 provided for under subsections e. and f. of section 16 of P.L.1974,
24 c.30 (C.19:31-6.4) and the declination form provided for in subsection
25 b. of section 26 of P.L.1994, c.182 (C.19:31-6.11) to be distributed at
26 each such office to each person appearing in person thereat to apply
27 for services or assistance provided thereby or to seek a recertification,
28 renewal or change of address relative to the assistance provided at
29 such office. An employee of the office shall inquire of every such
30 person whether the person, if not already registered to vote from the
31 place of his or her present residence, wishes to be so registered and
32 shall inform the person that whether or not the applicant chooses to
33 register will not affect the person's eligibility for those services. The
34 employee shall subsequently review the forms to determine whether or
35 not the person wishes to register to vote. If the person does not wish
36 to register, the employee shall provide the person with any assistance
37 necessary to complete the declination form and then inform the person
38 that the form shall be retained by the employee. If the person wishes
39 to register, the employee shall provide the person with any assistance
40 necessary in completing the voter registration form; shall inform the
41 applicant that the applicant may leave the completed form with the
42 employee or mail it personally to the Secretary of State; and if the
43 applicant chooses to leave the form, shall accept the completed form,
44 stamp or otherwise mark the lower right hand corner of the document
45 with the date on which it was so received, and forward it to the
46 Secretary of State. The employee shall provide to each applicant who

1 does not decline to register to vote the same degree of assistance with
2 regard to the completion of the voter registration form as is provided
3 by the office with regard to the completion of its own forms, unless
4 the applicant refuses such assistance;

5 b. provide for the continuous supply of the forms and instructions
6 specified in subsection a. of this section to every office which provides
7 assistance to persons with disabilities pursuant to P.L. ,
8 c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill);

9 c. provide the forms and instructions specified in subsection a. of
10 this section in both the English and Spanish languages to the offices
11 which are located in any county in which bilingual sample ballots must
12 be provided pursuant to R.S.19:14-21, R.S.19:49-4 or section 2 of
13 P.L.1965, c.29 (C.19:23-22.4);

14 d. provide for the collection of completed voter registration forms
15 by any employee of the office for the transmittal of the forms to the
16 Secretary of State;

17 e. provide that the forms, instructions and assistance specified in
18 subsection a. of this section shall be provided to any person with a
19 disability who receives assistance or services at that person's home
20 from an employee of the office;

21 f. inform each employee of the office who assists in registering a
22 person to vote that that employee shall not:

23 (1) seek to influence an applicant's political preference or party
24 registration;

25 (2) display any such political preference or party allegiance;

26 (3) make any statement to an applicant or take any action the
27 purpose or effect of which is to discourage the applicant from
28 registering to vote; or

29 (4) make any statement to an applicant or take any action the
30 purpose or effect of which is to lead the applicant to believe that a
31 decision to register or not to register has any bearing on the
32 availability of services or benefits; and

33 g. make certain that no information relating to a declination to
34 register to vote by an individual in connection with any type of
35 application for service made by that individual at any office is used for
36 any purpose other than voter registration.

37

38 10. Section 26 of P.L.1994, c.182 (C.19:31-6.11) is amended to
39 read as follows:

40 26. a. As used in this section, "voter registration agency" means:

41 Any agency or office serving as a food stamp issuer, pursuant to
42 P.L.1988, c.79 (C.44:8-153 et seq.) and the "Food Stamp Act of
43 1977," Pub.L.95-113 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.);

44 Any agency or office providing or administering assistance under
45 the "New Jersey Medical Assistance and Health Services Program,"

1 pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.) and 42 U.S.C. s.1395
2 et seq.;

3 Any agency or office distributing food pursuant to the special
4 supplemental food program for women, infants and children (WIC),
5 established pursuant to P.L.1987, c.261 (C.26:1A-36.1 et seq.) and
6 Pub.L. 95-267 (42 U.S.C. s.1786);

7 Any agency or office administering assistance under the ["Aid to
8 Families With Dependent Children Program," established pursuant to
9 P.L.1959, c.86 (C.44:10-1) and 42 U.S.C. s.601 et seq.] Work First
10 New Jersey program established pursuant to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-
11 55 et seq.);

12 Any public office of the Division of Developmental Disabilities,
13 established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1985, c.145 (C.30:6D-24), in
14 the Department of Human Services;

15 Any public office of the Office of Disability Services, established
16 pursuant to section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the
17 Legislature as this bill), in the Department of Human Services;

18 Any recruitment office of the Armed Forces of the United States,
19 subject to any agreement between this State and the Secretary of
20 Defense of the United States for the joint development and
21 implementation, as provided under subsection (c) of section 7 of
22 Pub.L.103-31 (42 U.S.C. s. 1973gg-6), of procedures for applying at
23 those offices to register to vote;

24 Any office of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services of
25 the New Jersey Department of Labor;

26 Any office of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
27 of the New Jersey Department of Human Services;

28 Any county welfare agency or county board of social services
29 established pursuant to the provisions of chapter 1 or chapter 4 of
30 Title 44 of the Revised Statutes;

31 The office of the commissioner of registration in the several
32 counties of this State; and

33 Any office of the municipal clerk in the several municipalities of this
34 State.

35 b. With each voter registration form and instructions provided to
36 the chief administrative officer at each voter registration agency under
37 subsections e. and f. of section 16 of P.L.1974, c.30 (C.19:31-6.4), the
38 Secretary of State shall provide at the same time a declination form
39 that includes:

40 (1) the question: "If you are not registered to vote where you live
41 now, would you like to apply to register to vote here today?";

42 (2) the statement: "Applying to register or declining to register to
43 vote will not affect the amount of assistance that you will be provided
44 by this agency.";

45 (3) boxes for the applicant to check to indicate whether the
46 applicant would or would not like to register to vote, together with the

1 statement "IF YOU DO NOT CHECK EITHER BOX, YOU WILL
2 BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE DECIDED NOT TO REGISTER TO
3 VOTE AT THIS TIME.";

4 (4) the statement: "If you would like help in filling out the voter
5 registration application form, we will help you. The decision to seek
6 or accept help is yours. You may fill out the application form in
7 private.";

8 (5) the statement: "If you believe that someone has interfered with
9 your right to register or to decline to register to vote, your right to
10 privacy in deciding whether to register or in applying to register to
11 vote, or your right to choose your own political party or other political
12 preference, you may file a complaint with the Secretary of State."
13 (insert address and current telephone number); and

14 (6) the statement: IF YOU DECLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE
15 AT THIS TIME, YOUR DECISION WILL REMAIN
16 CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL BE USED ONLY FOR VOTER
17 REGISTRATION PURPOSES. IF YOU DO REGISTER TO VOTE,
18 THE WAY IN WHICH YOU DO SO WILL REMAIN
19 CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL BE USED ONLY FOR VOTER
20 REGISTRATION PURPOSES.

21 c. The Secretary of State shall cause to be prepared declination
22 forms in the form provided for by subsection b. of this section in both
23 the English and Spanish languages and shall provide such forms to the
24 chief administrative officer of each voter registration agency which has
25 an office in any county in which there is at least one election district
26 in which bilingual sample ballots must be provided pursuant to
27 R.S.19:14-21, R.S.19:49-4 or section 2 of P.L.1965, c.29
28 (C.19:23-22.4).

29 d. The Secretary of State shall adopt, pursuant to consultation
30 with the chief administrative officers at voter registration agencies,
31 regulations for the prompt return of the completed voter registration
32 forms, but in no case shall the forms be returned later than the fifth day
33 following the date on which the completed forms are received by the
34 voter registration agencies.

35 e. All registration forms received by the Secretary of State in the
36 mail or forwarded to the Secretary of State by employees or agents of
37 the voter registration agencies shall be forwarded to the commissioner
38 of registration in the county of the registrant.

39 f. Each completed declination form received by a voter
40 registration agency shall be kept confidential for a period of at least
41 two years. The Secretary of State shall determine, pursuant to
42 consultation with the chief administrative officers at voter registration
43 agencies, which office or agency shall retain the declination forms.

44 (cf: P.L.1994, c.182, s.26)

1 11. Section 2 of P.L.1995, c.318 (C.26:2B-37) is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 2. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall establish
4 an "Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing
5 and Disabled" in consultation with the program advisory committee
6 established pursuant to this section and in consultation with and after
7 review by the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

8 There is established a program advisory committee to advise the
9 commissioner on the establishment and operation of the "Alcohol and
10 Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Disabled."
11 The members of the advisory committee shall be appointed by the
12 commissioner and shall consist of five members who are either deaf,
13 hard of hearing, or disabled, two members of the public with an
14 interest in issues relating to alcohol and drug abuse and one
15 representative each from the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and
16 Drug Abuse, the Developmental Disabilities Council, the Division of
17 Vocational Rehabilitation Services in the Department of Labor, and
18 the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Office of
19 Disability Services in the Department of Human Services. The
20 commissioner shall serve as an ex officio member of the committee.
21 (cf: P.L.1995, c.318, s.2)

22

23 12. Section 3 of P.L.1981, c.488 (C.30:6-25) is amended to read
24 as follows:

25 3. There is established in the Department of Human Services, the
26 Commodities and Services Council for blind and other severely
27 handicapped persons. The council shall consist of the Director of the
28 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services; the Director of the
29 Office of Purchase and Property; the Chief of the Bureau of State Use
30 Industries; the Director of the Office of Development for Small
31 Businesses and Women and Minority Businesses in the Department of
32 Commerce[, Energy] and Economic Development; the Director of the
33 Division of Developmental Disabilities and the Director of the Office
34 of Disability Services in the Department of Human Services; the
35 Executive Director of the Commission for the Blind and Visually
36 Impaired; the President of the New Jersey Association of
37 Rehabilitation Facilities; or their designees; three citizens as at-large
38 members, at least one of whom shall be a blind person, and at least one
39 of whom shall represent the private business sector. The at-large
40 members shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and
41 consent of the Senate, for terms of three years, except that of the first
42 at-large members appointed, one shall be appointed for a term of three
43 years, one for a term of two years, and one for a term of one year.

44 (cf: P.L.1991, c.147, s.3)

1 13. Section 3 of P.L.1949, c.280 (C.39:4-206) is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 3. The director shall issue to such applicant, also, a placard of
4 such size and design as shall be determined by the director in
5 consultation with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
6 in the Department of Labor and the Office of Disability Services in the
7 Department of Human Services, indicating that a handicapped person
8 identification card has been issued to the person designated therein,
9 which shall be displayed in such manner as the director shall determine
10 on the motor vehicle used to transport the handicapped person, when
11 the vehicle is parked overtime or in special parking places established
12 for use by handicapped persons.

13 Notwithstanding any provision of **[this act]** P.L.1949, c.280
14 (C.39:4-204 et seq.) to the contrary, the chief of police of each
15 municipality in this State shall issue to any person who has temporarily
16 lost the use of one or more limbs or is temporarily disabled as to be
17 unable to ambulate without the aid of an assisting device or whose
18 mobility is otherwise temporarily limited, as certified by a physician
19 with a plenary license to practice medicine and surgery or a podiatrist
20 licensed to practice in this State or a bordering state, a temporary
21 placard of not more than six months' duration. Each temporary
22 handicapped placard issued under the provisions of this section shall
23 set forth the date on which it shall become invalid.

24 The temporary placard shall be granted upon written certification
25 by a physician with a plenary license to practice medicine and surgery
26 or a podiatrist licensed to practice in this State or a bordering state
27 that the person meets the conditions constituting temporary disability
28 as provided in this section. This certification shall be provided on a
29 standard form to be developed by the director in consultation with
30 local chiefs of police and representatives of the handicapped. The
31 form shall contain only those conditions constituting temporary
32 disability as are provided in this section. The physical presence of the
33 handicapped person shall not be required for the issuance of a
34 temporary handicapped placard.

35 The placard may be renewed one time at the discretion of the
36 issuing authority for a period of not more than six months' duration.
37 The placard shall be displayed on the motor vehicle used by the
38 temporarily handicapped person and shall give the person the right to
39 park overtime or to use special parking places established for use by
40 handicapped persons in any municipality of this State.

41 The fee for the issuance of such temporary or permanent placard
42 issued pursuant to this section shall be \$4.00 and payable to the
43 Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

44 The director may, in addition, issue license plates bearing the
45 national wheelchair symbol for:

46 a. Not more than two motor vehicles owned, operated or leased

1 by a handicapped person or by any person furnishing transportation on
2 his behalf; or

3 b. Any two motorcycles owned, operated or leased by a
4 handicapped person.

5 The fee for the issuance of such plates shall be \$10.00 for each
6 vehicle.

7 (cf: P.L.1993, c.277, s.1)

8

9 14. Section 2 of P.L.1975, c.224 (C.52:32-15) is amended to read
10 as follows:

11 2. To carry out the purpose of section 1 of **[this act]** P.L.1975,
12 c.224 (C.52:32-14) the Department of Transportation shall, within 30
13 days of the enactment of **[this act]** P.L.1975, c.224 (C.52:32-14 et
14 seq.), and periodically thereafter as necessary, after consultation with
15 the Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services of
16 the Department of Labor **[and Industry]** and the Director of the Office
17 of Disability Services and the chairman of the State Commission for
18 the Blind and Visually Impaired of the Department of **[Institutions and**
19 **Agencies]** Human Services, prescribe standards, which shall include,
20 but not be limited to, standards of drainage, slope gradient, width, and
21 slip-resistant qualities which will assure that a sidewalk will
22 accommodate a person in a wheelchair or other handicapped persons.
23 All agencies and instrumentalities of State and local government, and
24 every other person, firm, corporation or association shall comply with
25 these standards and the provisions of **[this act]** P.L.1975, c.224
26 (C.52:32-14 et seq.) when undertaking construction or reconstruction
27 of streets, curbs or sidewalks.

28 (cf: P.L.1975, c.224, s.2)

29

30 15. The commissioner shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant
31 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
32 et seq.) to effectuate the purposes of this act.

33

34 16. This act shall take effect immediately.

35

36

37

STATEMENT

38

39 This bill establishes an Office of Disability Services in the
40 Department of Human Services (DHS).

41 The office shall:

- 42 • serve as the single point of entry within State government for
43 persons with disabilities who are seeking assistance and who do not
44 meet the requirements for disability-specific programs currently
45 located in the Department of Human Services or another State
46 agency;

- 1 • operate a toll-free telephone service to provide a comprehensive
2 information and referral system for persons with disabilities and
3 their families and those who serve and advocate for them, as well
4 as members of the general public, and periodically publish a
5 Statewide directory of disability services;
- 6 • operate as the State-level coordinating body between all State
7 agencies providing services to persons with disabilities and serve as
8 a locus within State government for the interests of persons with
9 disabilities and their families;
- 10 • serve as the primary liaison within State government to the county
11 offices for the disabled and provide technical assistance to the
12 county offices and seek to establish an electronic network which
13 connects with each of the county offices;
- 14 • work with those counties which do not maintain an office for the
15 disabled to establish such an office and seek federal, foundation and
16 other grant funding to establish or enhance county offices for the
17 disabled;
- 18 • administer the personal assistance services program established
19 pursuant to the "Personal Assistance Services Act," P.L.1987,
20 c.350 (C.30:4G-13 et seq.) and seek to coordinate all other publicly
21 funded programs which provide personal assistance or other home-
22 based services to persons with disabilities; and
- 23 • operate such State, federal or foundation-funded demonstration
24 programs as may be determined by the Commissioner of Human
25 Services.

26 The bill further requires that the Commissioner of Human Services
27 establish an advisory and policy development board to make
28 recommendations to the Director of the Office of Disability Services
29 on policy and operations of the office. The membership of the board
30 shall reflect a broad spectrum of disabilities and shall include
31 representation from among the following: persons with disabilities,
32 family members of persons with disabilities, service providers and
33 organizations or agencies which advocate for persons with disabilities.

34 In addition, the bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services
35 to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature. The report, at
36 a minimum, shall: summarize the activities of the Office of Disability
37 Services for the preceding fiscal year; document significant problems
38 affecting persons with disabilities when accessing public services;
39 indicate and analyze trends in the systems of care and services for
40 persons with disabilities; and present any recommendations to further
41 the State's capacity to provide services to, and advocate for the rights
42 of, persons with disabilities, including such recommendations for
43 legislative or administrative action as the commissioner desires to
44 present.

45 The bill also mandates voter registration efforts by the Office of
46 Disability Services in such a manner as that required under current law

1 by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services in the
2 Department of Labor and the Division of Developmental Disabilities
3 and the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired in DHS.

4 Finally, the bill amends several statutes to incorporate references to
5 the Office of Disability Services, as appropriate. Specifically, the bill
6 amends:

7 -- section 2 of P.L.1995, c.318 (C.26:2B-37), to add the Director
8 of the Office of Disability Services to the advisory committee for the
9 "Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and
10 Disabled" in the Department of Health and Senior Services;

11 -- section 3 of P.L.1981, c.488 (C.30:6-25), to add the Director of
12 the Office of Disability Services to the Commodities and Services
13 Council for blind and other severely handicapped persons in DHS;

14 -- section 3 of P.L.1949, c.280 (C.39:4-206), to require that the
15 Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) consult with the
16 Director of the Office of Disability Services (in addition to the
17 Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, as currently
18 required under the statute) on the size and design of handicapped
19 parking placards issued by DMV; and

20 -- section 2 of P.L.1975, c.224 (C.52:32-15), to require that the
21 Department of Transportation consult with the Director of the Office
22 of Disability Services (in addition to the Director of the Division of
23 Vocational Rehabilitation and the chairman of the Commission for the
24 Blind and Visually Impaired, as currently required under the statute)
25 on standards to ensure that sidewalks accommodate persons with
26 disabilities.

ASSEMBLY SENIOR ISSUES AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 808

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 29, 1998

The Assembly Senior Issues and Community Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 808.

This bill establishes an Office of Disability Services in the Department of Human Services (DHS).

The office shall:

- serve as the single point of entry within State government for persons with disabilities who are seeking assistance and who do not meet the requirements for disability-specific programs currently located in the Department of Human Services or another State agency;
- operate a toll-free telephone service to provide a comprehensive information and referral system for persons with disabilities and their families and those who serve and advocate for them, as well as members of the general public, and periodically publish a Statewide directory of disability services;
- operate as the State-level coordinating body between all State agencies providing services to persons with disabilities and serve as a locus within State government for the interests of persons with disabilities and their families;
- serve as the primary liaison within State government to the county offices for the disabled and provide technical assistance to the county offices and seek to establish an electronic network which connects with each of the county offices;
- work with those counties which do not maintain an office for the disabled to establish such an office and seek federal, foundation and other grant funding to establish or enhance county offices for the disabled;
- administer the personal assistance services program established pursuant to the "Personal Assistance Services Act," P.L.1987, c.350 (C.30:4G-13 et seq.) and seek to coordinate all other publicly funded programs which provide personal assistance or other home-based services to persons with disabilities; and
- operate such State, federal or foundation-funded demonstration programs as may be determined by the Commissioner of Human Services.

The bill further requires that the Commissioner of Human Services

establish an advisory and policy development board to make recommendations to the Director of the Office of Disability Services on policy and operations of the office. The membership of the board shall reflect a broad spectrum of disabilities and shall include representation from among the following: persons with disabilities, family members of persons with disabilities, service providers and organizations or agencies which advocate for persons with disabilities.

In addition, the bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature. The report, at a minimum, shall: summarize the activities of the Office of Disability Services for the preceding fiscal year; document significant problems affecting persons with disabilities when accessing public services; indicate and analyze trends in the systems of care and services for persons with disabilities; and present any recommendations to further the State's capacity to provide services to, and advocate for the rights of, persons with disabilities, including such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the commissioner desires to present.

The bill also mandates voter registration efforts by the Office of Disability Services in such a manner as that required under current law by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services in the Department of Labor and the Division of Developmental Disabilities and the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired in DHS.

Finally, the bill amends several statutes to incorporate references to the Office of Disability Services, as appropriate. Specifically, the bill amends:

-- section 2 of P.L.1995, c.318 (C.26:2B-37), to add the Director of the Office of Disability Services to the advisory committee for the "Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Disabled" in the Department of Health and Senior Services;

-- section 3 of P.L.1981, c.488 (C.30:6-25), to add the Director of the Office of Disability Services to the Commodities and Services Council for blind and other severely handicapped persons in DHS;

-- section 3 of P.L.1949, c.280 (C.39:4-206), to require that the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) consult with the Director of the Office of Disability Services (in addition to the Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, as currently required under the statute) on the size and design of handicapped parking placards issued by DMV; and

-- section 2 of P.L.1975, c.224 (C.52:32-15), to require that the Department of Transportation consult with the Director of the Office of Disability Services (in addition to the Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the chairman of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, as currently required under the statute) on standards to ensure that sidewalks accommodate persons with disabilities.

This bill was prefiled for introduction in the 1998-1999 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes changes required by technical review which has been performed.

SENATE SENIOR CITIZENS, VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 808

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 24, 1998

The Senate Senior Citizens, Veterans' Affairs and Human Services Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 808.

As amended by committee, this bill establishes an Office of Disability Services in the Department of Human Services (DHS).

The Commissioner of Human Services shall appoint a director to be the administrator and head of the office. The director shall be a person qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the office and shall devote his entire time to the performance of those duties. The office shall:

- serve as the single point of entry within State government for persons with disabilities who are seeking assistance and who do not meet the requirements for disability-specific programs currently located in the Department of Human Services or another State agency;
- operate a toll-free telephone service to provide a comprehensive information and referral system for persons with disabilities and their families and those who serve and advocate for them, as well as members of the general public, and periodically publish a Statewide directory of disability services;
- operate as the State-level coordinating body between all State agencies providing services to persons with disabilities and serve as a locus within State government for the interests of persons with disabilities and their families;
- serve as the primary liaison within State government to the county offices for the disabled and provide technical assistance to the county offices and seek to establish an electronic network which connects with each of the county offices;
- work with those counties which do not maintain an office for the disabled to establish such an office and seek federal, foundation and other grant funding to establish or enhance county offices for the disabled;
- administer the personal assistance services program established pursuant to the "Personal Assistance Services Act," P.L.1987, c.350

(C.30:4G-13 et seq.) and seek to coordinate all other publicly funded programs which provide personal assistance or other home-based services to persons with disabilities; and

- operate such State, federal or foundation-funded demonstration programs as may be determined by the Commissioner of Human Services.

The bill further requires that the Commissioner of Human Services establish an advisory and policy development board to make recommendations to the Director of the Office of Disability Services on policy and operations of the office. The membership of the board shall reflect a broad spectrum of disabilities and shall include representation from among the following: persons with disabilities, family members of persons with disabilities, service providers and organizations or agencies which advocate for persons with disabilities.

In addition, the bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature. The report, at a minimum, shall: summarize the activities of the Office of Disability Services for the preceding fiscal year; document significant problems affecting persons with disabilities when accessing public services; indicate and analyze trends in the systems of care and services for persons with disabilities; and present any recommendations to further the State's capacity to provide services to, and advocate for the rights of, persons with disabilities, including such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the commissioner desires to present.

The bill also mandates voter registration efforts by the Office of Disability Services in such a manner as that required under current law by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services in the Department of Labor and the Division of Developmental Disabilities and the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired in DHS.

Additionally, the bill amends several statutes to incorporate references to the Office of Disability Services, as appropriate. Specifically, the bill amends:

-- section 2 of P.L.1995, c.318 (C.26:2B-37), to add the Director of the Office of Disability Services to the advisory committee for the "Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Disabled" in the Department of Health and Senior Services;

-- section 3 of P.L.1981, c.488 (C.30:6-25), to add the Director of the Office of Disability Services to the Commodities and Services Council for blind and other severely handicapped persons in DHS;

-- section 3 of P.L.1949, c.280 (C.39:4-206), to require that the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) consult with the Director of the Office of Disability Services (in addition to the Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, as currently required under the statute) on the size and design of handicapped parking placards issued by DMV; and

-- section 2 of P.L.1975, c.224 (C.52:32-15), to require that the Department of Transportation consult with the Director of the Office of Disability Services (in addition to the Director of the Division of

Vocational Rehabilitation and the chairman of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, as currently required under the statute) on standards to ensure that sidewalks accommodate persons with disabilities.

Finally, in order to utilize the State's disabled citizens in the work of the Office of Disability Services to the maximum extent possible, the committee adopted an amendment that permits the commissioner or director, as appropriate, to appoint, retain or employ officers or consultants on a contract basis or otherwise, as deemed necessary, and employ other qualified personnel who shall be in the noncompetitive division of the career service of the Civil Service.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1274 Sca (Schluter) which the committee also reported on this date.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

ASSEMBLY, No. 808

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

208th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 24, 1998

Bill Summary:

Assembly Bill No. 808 of 1998 establishes an Office of Disability Services in the Department of Human Services (DHS) whose duties would include the following:

- serving as the single point of entry within State government for persons with disabilities who are seeking assistance and who do not meet the requirements for disability-specific programs currently located in DHS or another State agency;
- operating a toll-free telephone service to provide a comprehensive information and referral system for persons with disabilities and their families and those who serve and advocate for them and periodically publish a Statewide directory of disability services; and
- administering the personal assistance services program established pursuant to the "Personal Assistance Services Act," P.L.1987, c.350 (C.30:4G-13 et seq.) and seeking to coordinate all other publicly funded programs which provide personal assistance or other home-based services to persons with disabilities.

The bill makes additional administrative changes such as establishing an advisory and policy development board and requiring the preparation of an annual report which would summarize the office's activities and document significant problems affecting persons with disabilities.

Agency Comments:

DHS and the Office of Management and Budget have not provided and fiscal information on the legislation.

Office of Legislative Services Comments:

There is no new cost associated with the legislation as DHS has already established an Office on Disability Services pursuant to the Governor's directive of October 16, 1997. The FY 1999 recommended budget would appropriate \$450,000 for operational costs of the office.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.

SENATE, No. 1274

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 29, 1998

Sponsored by:

Senator WILLIAM E. SCHLUTER

District 23 (Warren, Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Office of Disability Services in DHS.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



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2

1 AN ACT establishing the Office of Disability Services in the
2 Department of Human Services and revising parts of the statutory
3 law.

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

7
8 1. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. New Jersey citizens with disabilities want the same things in life
10 as the other residents of this State: to be productive citizens who
11 contribute to the communities in which they live, to be good family
12 members and good neighbors, and to work hard at jobs that provide
13 satisfaction and independence.

14 b. These individuals deserve the recognition and support of State,
15 county and local governments to protect their rights and to reach their
16 full potential.

17 c. To fulfill this responsibility, State government should establish
18 a designated agency, to work cooperatively with appropriate agencies
19 in each county, which is empowered to serve citizens with disabilities
20 effectively so that comprehensive programs can be developed and
21 coordinated on a Statewide basis to support the efforts of these
22 citizens to overcome those barriers which their disabilities may pose
23 to reaching their goals.

24

25 2. (New section) As used in this act:

26 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

27 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

28 "Director" means the Director of the Office of Disability Services
29 in the Department of Human Services.

30 "Office" means the Office of Disability Services in the Department
31 of Human Services.

32

33 3. (New section) a. There is established an Office of Disability
34 Services in the Department of Human Services.

35 b. The office shall not subsume within it any other office,
36 commission or other agency of State government, nor shall funds
37 appropriated for the operation of any other office, commission or
38 other agency of State government be expended for the establishment
39 or operation of the Office of Disability Services.

40

41 4. (New section) The administrator and head of the office shall be
42 a director who shall be known as the Director of the Office of
43 Disability Services. The director shall be a person qualified by training

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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1 and experience to perform the duties of the office and shall devote his
2 entire time to the performance of those duties. The director shall be
3 appointed by the commissioner.

4 The commissioner shall appoint and remove officers and employees
5 of the office subject to the provisions of Title 11A of the New Jersey
6 Statutes and other applicable statutes as are necessary to enable the
7 office to perform its duties pursuant to this act and he shall fix their
8 compensation within the limits of available appropriations and as is
9 provided by law.

10

11 5. (New section) a. The office shall serve as the single point of
12 entry within State government for persons with disabilities who are
13 seeking assistance and who do not meet the requirements for
14 disability-specific programs currently located in the department or
15 another agency of State government. The office shall operate a
16 toll-free telephone service to provide a comprehensive information and
17 referral system for persons with disabilities and their families and those
18 who serve and advocate for them, as well as members of the general
19 public, and shall periodically publish a Statewide directory of disability
20 services.

21 b. The office shall operate as the State-level coordinating body
22 between all agencies of State government providing services to
23 persons with disabilities and shall serve as a locus within State
24 government for the interests of persons with disabilities and their
25 families.

26 c. The office shall serve as the primary liaison within State
27 government to the county offices for the disabled and shall provide
28 technical assistance to the county offices and seek to establish an
29 electronic network which connects it to each of the county offices. In
30 addition, the director shall work with those counties which do not
31 maintain an office for the disabled to establish such an office and shall
32 seek federal, foundation and other grant funding to establish or
33 enhance county offices for the disabled.

34 d. The office shall administer the personal assistance services
35 program established pursuant to the "Personal Assistance Services
36 Act," P.L.1987, c.350 (C.30:4G-13 et seq.) and seek to coordinate all
37 other publicly funded programs which provide personal assistance or
38 other home-based services to persons with disabilities. The office shall
39 also operate such State, federal or foundation-funded demonstration
40 programs as may be determined by the commissioner.

41 e. The commissioner shall establish an advisory and policy
42 development board to make recommendations to the director on policy
43 and operations of the office. The membership of the board shall reflect
44 a broad spectrum of disabilities and shall include representation from
45 among the following: persons with disabilities, family members of
46 persons with disabilities, service providers and organizations or

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1 agencies which advocate for persons with disabilities. The members
2 of the board shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to
3 reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of
4 their duties.

5
6 6. (New section) The commissioner shall report annually to the
7 Governor and the Legislature, which report, at a minimum, shall:
8 summarize the activities of the office for the preceding fiscal year;
9 document significant problems affecting persons with disabilities when
10 accessing public services; indicate and analyze trends in the systems of
11 care and services for persons with disabilities; and present any
12 recommendations to further the State's capacity to provide services
13 to, and advocate for the rights of, persons with disabilities, including
14 such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the
15 commissioner desires to present.

16
17 7. Section 3 of P.L.1987, c.350 (C.30:4G-15) is amended to read
18 as follows:

19 3. There is established a personal assistance services program in
20 the Office of Disability Services in the Department of Human Services,
21 to be administered by county designated agencies in each of the 21
22 counties. The program, within the limits of funds appropriated or
23 otherwise made available to it, shall assist adults with chronic physical
24 disabilities in the performance of routine, nonmedical tasks that are
25 directly related to maintaining their health and independence, in order
26 to enable these persons to be employed or receive training or
27 education related to employment or to support community-based
28 independent living. The program shall seek to promote the greatest
29 possible degree of self-control and self-direction on the part of each
30 recipient of services.

31 (cf: P.L.1993, c.215, s.3)

32
33 8. Section 8 of P.L.1987, c.350 (C.30:4G-20) is amended to read
34 as follows:

35 8. a. There is established the State Consumer Advisory Council on
36 Personal Assistance Services in the Office of Disability Services in the
37 department, which shall consist of 21 members appointed by the
38 commissioner, one from each county, at least 75 percent of whom are
39 consumers of personal assistance services.

40 Vacancies in the membership of the advisory council shall be filled
41 in the same manner provided for the original appointments. The
42 members of the advisory council shall serve without compensation but
43 shall be reimbursed for the reasonable expenses necessarily incurred in
44 the performance of their duties.

45 b. The advisory council shall organize no later than 30 days after
46 the appointment of its members and shall select a chairman from

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1 among its members and a secretary who need not be a member of the
2 advisory council.

3 c. The department shall provide such stenographic, clerical and
4 other administrative assistants, and such professional staff, as the
5 advisory council requires to carry out its work.

6 d. It shall be the responsibility of the advisory council to:

7 (1) Advise the commissioner on matters pertaining to personal
8 assistance services and the development of the personal assistance
9 services program, upon the commissioner's request;

10 (2) Review the rules adopted for the personal assistance services
11 program and make recommendations to the commissioner thereon;

12 (3) Evaluate the effectiveness of the personal assistance services
13 program in meeting its objectives and share that evaluation with the
14 commissioner; and

15 (4) Actively explore innovative service delivery models to enhance
16 the consumer-driven nature of the personal assistance services
17 program.

18 (cf: P.L.1993, c.215, s.8)

19

20 9. (New section) The director or other chief administrative officer
21 of any public office of the Office of Disability Services shall:

22 a. cause copies of the voter registration forms and instructions
23 provided for under subsections e. and f. of section 16 of P.L.1974,
24 c.30 (C.19:31-6.4) and the declination form provided for in subsection
25 b. of section 26 of P.L.1994, c.182 (C.19:31-6.11) to be distributed at
26 each such office to each person appearing in person thereat to apply
27 for services or assistance provided thereby or to seek a recertification,
28 renewal or change of address relative to the assistance provided at
29 such office. An employee of the office shall inquire of every such
30 person whether the person, if not already registered to vote from the
31 place of his or her present residence, wishes to be so registered and
32 shall inform the person that whether or not the applicant chooses to
33 register will not affect the person's eligibility for those services. The
34 employee shall subsequently review the forms to determine whether or
35 not the person wishes to register to vote. If the person does not wish
36 to register, the employee shall provide the person with any assistance
37 necessary to complete the declination form and then inform the person
38 that the form shall be retained by the employee. If the person wishes
39 to register, the employee shall provide the person with any assistance
40 necessary in completing the voter registration form; shall inform the
41 applicant that the applicant may leave the completed form with the
42 employee or mail it personally to the Secretary of State; and if the
43 applicant chooses to leave the form, shall accept the completed form,
44 stamp or otherwise mark the lower right hand corner of the document
45 with the date on which it was so received, and forward it to the
46 Secretary of State. The employee shall provide to each applicant who

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6

1 does not decline to register to vote the same degree of assistance with
2 regard to the completion of the voter registration form as is provided
3 by the office with regard to the completion of its own forms, unless
4 the applicant refuses such assistance;

5 b. provide for the continuous supply of the forms and instructions
6 specified in subsection a. of this section to every office which provides
7 assistance to persons with disabilities pursuant to P.L. ,

8 c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill);

9 c. provide the forms and instructions specified in subsection a. of
10 this section in both the English and Spanish languages to the offices
11 which are located in any county in which bilingual sample ballots must
12 be provided pursuant to R.S.19:14-21, R.S.19:49-4 or section 2 of
13 P.L.1965, c.29 (C.19:23-22.4);

14 d. provide for the collection of completed voter registration forms
15 by any employee of the office for the transmittal of the forms to the
16 Secretary of State;

17 e. provide that the forms, instructions and assistance specified in
18 subsection a. of this section shall be provided to any person with a
19 disability who receives assistance or services at that person's home
20 from an employee of the office;

21 f. inform each employee of the office who assists in registering a
22 person to vote that that employee shall not:

23 (1) seek to influence an applicant's political preference or party
24 registration;

25 (2) display any such political preference or party allegiance;

26 (3) make any statement to an applicant or take any action the
27 purpose or effect of which is to discourage the applicant from
28 registering to vote; or

29 (4) make any statement to an applicant or take any action the
30 purpose or effect of which is to lead the applicant to believe that a
31 decision to register or not to register has any bearing on the
32 availability of services or benefits; and

33 g. make certain that no information relating to a declination to
34 register to vote by an individual in connection with any type of
35 application for service made by that individual at any office is used for
36 any purpose other than voter registration.

37

38 10. Section 26 of P.L.1994, c.182 (C.19:31-6.11) is amended to
39 read as follows:

40 26. a. As used in this section, "voter registration agency" means:

41 Any agency or office serving as a food stamp issuer, pursuant to
42 P.L.1988, c.79 (C.44:8-153 et seq.) and the "Food Stamp Act of
43 1977," Pub.L.95-113 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.);

44 Any agency or office providing or administering assistance under
45 the "New Jersey Medical Assistance and Health Services Program,"

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1 pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.) and 42 U.S.C. s.1395
2 et seq.;

3 Any agency or office distributing food pursuant to the special
4 supplemental food program for women, infants and children (WIC),
5 established pursuant to P.L.1987, c.261 (C.26:1A-36.1 et seq.) and
6 Pub.L. 95-267 (42 U.S.C. s.1786);

7 Any agency or office administering assistance under the ["Aid to
8 Families With Dependent Children Program," established pursuant to
9 P.L.1959, c.86 (C.44:10-1) and 42 U.S.C. s.601 et seq.] Work First
10 New Jersey program established pursuant to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-
11 55 et seq.);

12 Any public office of the Division of Developmental Disabilities,
13 established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1985, c.145 (C.30:6D-24), in
14 the Department of Human Services;

15 Any public office of the Office of Disability Services, established
16 pursuant to section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the
17 Legislature as this bill), in the Department of Human Services;

18 Any recruitment office of the Armed Forces of the United States,
19 subject to any agreement between this State and the Secretary of
20 Defense of the United States for the joint development and
21 implementation, as provided under subsection (c) of section 7 of
22 Pub.L.103-31 (42 U.S.C. s. 1973gg-6), of procedures for applying at
23 those offices to register to vote;

24 Any office of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services of
25 the New Jersey Department of Labor;

26 Any office of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
27 of the New Jersey Department of Human Services;

28 Any county welfare agency or county board of social services
29 established pursuant to the provisions of chapter 1 or chapter 4 of
30 Title 44 of the Revised Statutes;

31 The office of the commissioner of registration in the several
32 counties of this State; and

33 Any office of the municipal clerk in the several municipalities of this
34 State.

35 b. With each voter registration form and instructions provided to
36 the chief administrative officer at each voter registration agency under
37 subsections e. and f. of section 16 of P.L.1974, c.30 (C.19:31-6.4),
38 the Secretary of State shall provide at the same time a declination form
39 that includes:

40 (1) the question: "If you are not registered to vote where you live
41 now, would you like to apply to register to vote here today?";

42 (2) the statement: "Applying to register or declining to register to
43 vote will not affect the amount of assistance that you will be provided
44 by this agency.";

45 (3) boxes for the applicant to check to indicate whether the
46 applicant would or would not like to register to vote, together with the

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1 statement "IF YOU DO NOT CHECK EITHER BOX, YOU WILL
2 BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE DECIDED NOT TO REGISTER TO
3 VOTE AT THIS TIME.";

4 (4) the statement: "If you would like help in filling out the voter
5 registration application form, we will help you. The decision to seek
6 or accept help is yours. You may fill out the application form in
7 private.";

8 (5) the statement: "If you believe that someone has interfered with
9 your right to register or to decline to register to vote, your right to
10 privacy in deciding whether to register or in applying to register to
11 vote, or your right to choose your own political party or other political
12 preference, you may file a complaint with the Secretary of State."
13 (insert address and current telephone number); and

14 (6) the statement: IF YOU DECLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE
15 AT THIS TIME, YOUR DECISION WILL REMAIN
16 CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL BE USED ONLY FOR VOTER
17 REGISTRATION PURPOSES. IF YOU DO REGISTER TO VOTE,
18 THE WAY IN WHICH YOU DO SO WILL REMAIN
19 CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL BE USED ONLY FOR VOTER
20 REGISTRATION PURPOSES.

21 c. The Secretary of State shall cause to be prepared declination
22 forms in the form provided for by subsection b. of this section in both
23 the English and Spanish languages and shall provide such forms to the
24 chief administrative officer of each voter registration agency which has
25 an office in any county in which there is at least one election district
26 in which bilingual sample ballots must be provided pursuant to
27 R.S.19:14-21, R.S.19:49-4 or section 2 of P.L.1965, c.29
28 (C.19:23-22.4).

29 d. The Secretary of State shall adopt, pursuant to consultation
30 with the chief administrative officers at voter registration agencies,
31 regulations for the prompt return of the completed voter registration
32 forms, but in no case shall the forms be returned later than the fifth day
33 following the date on which the completed forms are received by the
34 voter registration agencies.

35 e. All registration forms received by the Secretary of State in the
36 mail or forwarded to the Secretary of State by employees or agents of
37 the voter registration agencies shall be forwarded to the commissioner
38 of registration in the county of the registrant.

39 f. Each completed declination form received by a voter
40 registration agency shall be kept confidential for a period of at least
41 two years. The Secretary of State shall determine, pursuant to
42 consultation with the chief administrative officers at voter registration
43 agencies, which office or agency shall retain the declination forms.

44 (cf: P.L.1994, c.182, s.26)

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1 11. Section 2 of P.L.1995, c.318 (C.26:2B-37) is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 2. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall establish
4 an "Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing
5 and Disabled" in consultation with the program advisory committee
6 established pursuant to this section and in consultation with and after
7 review by the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

8 There is established a program advisory committee to advise the
9 commissioner on the establishment and operation of the "Alcohol and
10 Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Disabled."
11 The members of the advisory committee shall be appointed by the
12 commissioner and shall consist of five members who are either deaf,
13 hard of hearing, or disabled, two members of the public with an
14 interest in issues relating to alcohol and drug abuse and one
15 representative each from the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and
16 Drug Abuse, the Developmental Disabilities Council, the Division of
17 Vocational Rehabilitation Services in the Department of Labor, and
18 the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Office of
19 Disability Services in the Department of Human Services. The
20 commissioner shall serve as an ex officio member of the committee.
21 (cf: P.L.1995, c.318, s.2)

22

23 12. Section 3 of P.L.1981, c.488 (C.30:6-25) is amended to read
24 as follows:

25 3. There is established in the Department of Human Services, the
26 Commodities and Services Council for blind and other severely
27 handicapped persons. The council shall consist of the Director of the
28 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services; the Director of the
29 Office of Purchase and Property; the Chief of the Bureau of State Use
30 Industries; the Director of the Office of Development for Small
31 Businesses and Women and Minority Businesses in the Department of
32 Commerce[, Energy] and Economic Development; the Director of the
33 Division of Developmental Disabilities and the Director of the Office
34 of Disability Services in the Department of Human Services; the
35 Executive Director of the Commission for the Blind and Visually
36 Impaired; the President of the New Jersey Association of
37 Rehabilitation Facilities; or their designees; three citizens as at-large
38 members, at least one of whom shall be a blind person, and at least one
39 of whom shall represent the private business sector. The at-large
40 members shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and
41 consent of the Senate, for terms of three years, except that of the first
42 at-large members appointed, one shall be appointed for a term of three
43 years, one for a term of two years, and one for a term of one year.

44 (cf: P.L.1991, c.147, s.3)

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10

1 13. Section 3 of P.L.1949, c.280 (C.39:4-206) is amended to read
2 as follows:

3 3. The director shall issue to such applicant, also, a placard of
4 such size and design as shall be determined by the director in
5 consultation with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
6 in the Department of Labor and the Office of Disability Services in the
7 Department of Human Services, indicating that a handicapped person
8 identification card has been issued to the person designated therein,
9 which shall be displayed in such manner as the director shall determine
10 on the motor vehicle used to transport the handicapped person, when
11 the vehicle is parked overtime or in special parking places established
12 for use by handicapped persons.

13 Notwithstanding any provision of **[this act]** P.L.1949, c.280
14 (C.39:4-204 et seq.) to the contrary, the chief of police of each
15 municipality in this State shall issue to any person who has temporarily
16 lost the use of one or more limbs or is temporarily disabled as to be
17 unable to ambulate without the aid of an assisting device or whose
18 mobility is otherwise temporarily limited, as certified by a physician
19 with a plenary license to practice medicine and surgery or a podiatrist
20 licensed to practice in this State or a bordering state, or a physician
21 stationed at a military or naval installation located in this State who is
22 licensed to practice in any state, a temporary placard of not more than
23 six months' duration. Each temporary handicapped placard issued
24 under the provisions of this section shall set forth the date on which it
25 shall become invalid.

26 The temporary placard shall be granted upon written certification
27 by a physician with a plenary license to practice medicine and surgery
28 or a podiatrist licensed to practice in this State or a bordering state or
29 a physician stationed at a military or naval installation located in this
30 State who is licensed to practice in any state that the person meets the
31 conditions constituting temporary disability as provided in this section.
32 This certification shall be provided on a standard form to be developed
33 by the director in consultation with local chiefs of police and
34 representatives of the handicapped. The form shall contain only those
35 conditions constituting temporary disability as are provided in this
36 section. The physical presence of the handicapped person shall not be
37 required for the issuance of a temporary handicapped placard.

38 The placard may be renewed one time at the discretion of the
39 issuing authority for a period of not more than six months' duration.
40 The placard shall be displayed on the motor vehicle used by the
41 temporarily handicapped person and shall give the person the right to
42 park overtime or to use special parking places established for use by
43 handicapped persons in any municipality of this State.

44 The fee for the issuance of such temporary or permanent placard
45 issued pursuant to this section shall be \$4.00 and payable to the
46 Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

1 The director may, in addition, issue license plates bearing the
2 national wheelchair symbol for:

3 a. Not more than two motor vehicles owned, operated or leased
4 by a handicapped person or by any person furnishing transportation on
5 his behalf; or

6 b. Any two motorcycles owned, operated or leased by a
7 handicapped person.

8 The fee for the issuance of such plates shall be \$10.00 for each
9 vehicle.

10 (cf: P.L.1997, c.267, s.2)

11

12 14. Section 2 of P.L.1975, c.224 (C.52:32-15) is amended to read
13 as follows:

14 2. To carry out the purpose of section 1 of **[this act]** P.L.1975,
15 c.224 (C.52:32-14) the Department of Transportation shall, within 30
16 days of the enactment of **[this act]** P.L.1975, c.224 (C.52:32-14 et
17 seq.), and periodically thereafter as necessary, after consultation with
18 the Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services of
19 the Department of Labor **[and Industry]** and the Director of the Office
20 of Disability Services and the chairman of the State Commission for
21 the Blind and Visually Impaired of the Department of **[Institutions and**
22 **Agencies]** Human Services, prescribe standards, which shall include,
23 but not be limited to, standards of drainage, slope gradient, width, and
24 slip-resistant qualities which will assure that a sidewalk will
25 accommodate a person in a wheelchair or other handicapped persons.
26 All agencies and instrumentalities of State and local government, and
27 every other person, firm, corporation or association shall comply with
28 these standards and the provisions of **[this act]** P.L.1975, c.224
29 (C.52:32-14 et seq.) when undertaking construction or reconstruction
30 of streets, curbs or sidewalks.

31 (cf: P.L.1975, c.224, s.2)

32

33 15. The commissioner shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant
34 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
35 et seq.) to effectuate the purposes of this act.

36

37 16. This act shall take effect immediately.

38

39

40

STATEMENT

41

42 This bill establishes an Office of Disability Services in the
43 Department of Human Services (DHS).

44 The office shall:

- 45 • serve as the single point of entry within State government for
46 persons with disabilities who are seeking assistance and who do not

S1274 SCHLUTER

12

- 1 meet the requirements for disability-specific programs currently
2 located in the Department of Human Services or another State
3 agency;
- 4 • operate a toll-free telephone service to provide a comprehensive
5 information and referral system for persons with disabilities and
6 their families and those who serve and advocate for them, as well as
7 members of the general public, and periodically publish a Statewide
8 directory of disability services;
 - 9 • operate as the State-level coordinating body between all State
10 agencies providing services to persons with disabilities and serve as
11 a locus within State government for the interests of persons with
12 disabilities and their families;
 - 13 • serve as the primary liaison within State government to the county
14 offices for the disabled and provide technical assistance to the
15 county offices and seek to establish an electronic network which
16 connects with each of the county offices;
 - 17 • work with those counties which do not maintain an office for the
18 disabled to establish such an office and seek federal, foundation and
19 other grant funding to establish or enhance county offices for the
20 disabled;
 - 21 • administer the personal assistance services program established
22 pursuant to the "Personal Assistance Services Act," P.L.1987, c.350
23 (C.30:4G-13 et seq.) and seek to coordinate all other publicly
24 funded programs which provide personal assistance or other home-
25 based services to persons with disabilities; and
 - 26 • operate such State, federal or foundation-funded demonstration
27 programs as may be determined by the Commissioner of Human
28 Services.

29 The bill further requires that the Commissioner of Human Services
30 establish an advisory and policy development board to make
31 recommendations to the Director of the Office of Disability Services
32 on policy and operations of the office. The membership of the board
33 shall reflect a broad spectrum of disabilities and shall include
34 representation from among the following: persons with disabilities,
35 family members of persons with disabilities, service providers and
36 organizations or agencies which advocate for persons with disabilities.

37 In addition, the bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services
38 to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature. The report, at
39 a minimum, shall: summarize the activities of the Office of Disability
40 Services for the preceding fiscal year; document significant problems
41 affecting persons with disabilities when accessing public services;
42 indicate and analyze trends in the systems of care and services for
43 persons with disabilities; and present any recommendations to further
44 the State's capacity to provide services to, and advocate for the rights
45 of, persons with disabilities, including such recommendations for
46 legislative or administrative action as the commissioner desires to
47 present.

1 The bill also mandates voter registration efforts by the Office of
2 Disability Services in such a manner as that required under current law
3 by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services in the
4 Department of Labor and the Division of Developmental Disabilities
5 and the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired in DHS.

6 Finally, the bill amends several statutes to incorporate references to
7 the Office of Disability Services, as appropriate. Specifically, the bill
8 amends:

9 -- section 2 of P.L.1995, c.318 (C.26:2B-37), to add the Director of
10 the Office of Disability Services to the advisory committee for the
11 "Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and
12 Disabled" in the Department of Health and Senior Services;

13 -- section 3 of P.L.1981, c.488 (C.30:6-25), to add the Director of
14 the Office of Disability Services to the Commodities and Services
15 Council for blind and other severely handicapped persons in DHS;

16 -- section 3 of P.L.1949, c.280 (C.39:4-206), to require that the
17 Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) consult with the
18 Director of the Office of Disability Services (in addition to the Director
19 of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, as currently required
20 under the statute) on the size and design of handicapped parking
21 placards issued by DMV; and

22 -- section 2 of P.L.1975, c.224 (C.52:32-15), to require that the
23 Department of Transportation consult with the Director of the Office
24 of Disability Services (in addition to the Director of the Division of
25 Vocational Rehabilitation and the chairman of the Commission for the
26 Blind and Visually Impaired, as currently required under the statute)
27 on standards to ensure that sidewalks accommodate persons with
28 disabilities.

SENATE SENIOR CITIZENS, VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1274

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: SEPTEMBER 24, 1998

The Senate Senior Citizens, Veterans' Affairs and Human Services Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1274.

As amended by committee, this bill establishes an Office of Disability Services in the Department of Human Services (DHS).

The Commissioner of Human Services shall appoint a director to be the administrator and head of the office. The director shall be a person qualified by training and experience to perform the duties of the office and shall devote his entire time to the performance of those duties. The office shall:

- serve as the single point of entry within State government for persons with disabilities who are seeking assistance and who do not meet the requirements for disability-specific programs currently located in the Department of Human Services or another State agency;
- operate a toll-free telephone service to provide a comprehensive information and referral system for persons with disabilities and their families and those who serve and advocate for them, as well as members of the general public, and periodically publish a Statewide directory of disability services;
- operate as the State-level coordinating body between all State agencies providing services to persons with disabilities and serve as a locus within State government for the interests of persons with disabilities and their families;
- serve as the primary liaison within State government to the county offices for the disabled and provide technical assistance to the county offices and seek to establish an electronic network which connects with each of the county offices;
- work with those counties which do not maintain an office for the disabled to establish such an office and seek federal, foundation and other grant funding to establish or enhance county offices for the disabled;
- administer the personal assistance services program established pursuant to the "Personal Assistance Services Act," P.L.1987, c.350

(C.30:4G-13 et seq.) and seek to coordinate all other publicly funded programs which provide personal assistance or other home-based services to persons with disabilities; and

- operate such State, federal or foundation-funded demonstration programs as may be determined by the Commissioner of Human Services.

The bill further requires that the Commissioner of Human Services establish an advisory and policy development board to make recommendations to the Director of the Office of Disability Services on policy and operations of the office. The membership of the board shall reflect a broad spectrum of disabilities and shall include representation from among the following: persons with disabilities, family members of persons with disabilities, service providers and organizations or agencies which advocate for persons with disabilities.

In addition, the bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to report annually to the Governor and the Legislature. The report, at a minimum, shall: summarize the activities of the Office of Disability Services for the preceding fiscal year; document significant problems affecting persons with disabilities when accessing public services; indicate and analyze trends in the systems of care and services for persons with disabilities; and present any recommendations to further the State's capacity to provide services to, and advocate for the rights of, persons with disabilities, including such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the commissioner desires to present.

The bill also mandates voter registration efforts by the Office of Disability Services in such a manner as that required under current law by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services in the Department of Labor and the Division of Developmental Disabilities and the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired in DHS.

Additionally, the bill amends several statutes to incorporate references to the Office of Disability Services, as appropriate. Specifically, the bill amends:

-- section 2 of P.L.1995, c.318 (C.26:2B-37), to add the Director of the Office of Disability Services to the advisory committee for the "Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Disabled" in the Department of Health and Senior Services;

-- section 3 of P.L.1981, c.488 (C.30:6-25), to add the Director of the Office of Disability Services to the Commodities and Services Council for blind and other severely handicapped persons in DHS;

-- section 3 of P.L.1949, c.280 (C.39:4-206), to require that the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) consult with the Director of the Office of Disability Services (in addition to the Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, as currently required under the statute) on the size and design of handicapped parking placards issued by DMV; and

-- section 2 of P.L.1975, c.224 (C.52:32-15), to require that the Department of Transportation consult with the Director of the Office of Disability Services (in addition to the Director of the Division of

Vocational Rehabilitation and the chairman of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, as currently required under the statute) on standards to ensure that sidewalks accommodate persons with disabilities.

Finally, in order to utilize the State's disabled citizens in the work of the Office of Disability Services to the maximum extent possible, the committee adopted an amendment that permits the commissioner or director, as appropriate, to appoint, retain or employ officers or consultants on a contract basis or otherwise, as deemed necessary, and employ other qualified personnel who shall be in the noncompetitive division of the career service of the Civil Service.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 808 Sca (Vandervalk/Rooney) which the committee also reported on this date.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1274

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

208th LEGISLATURE

DATED: NOVEMBER 18, 1998

Bill Summary

Senate Bill No. 1274 (1R) of 1998 establishes an Office of Disability Services in the Department of Human Services (DHS) whose duties would include the following:

- serving as the single point of entry within State government for persons with disabilities who are seeking assistance and who do not meet the requirements for disability-specific programs currently located in DHS or another State agency;
- operating a toll-free telephone service to provide a comprehensive information and referral system for persons with disabilities and their families and those who serve and advocate for them and periodically publishing a Statewide directory of disability services; and
- administering the personal assistance services program established pursuant to the "Personal Assistance Services Act," P.L.1987, c.350 (C.30:4G-13 et seq.) and seeking to coordinate all other publicly funded programs which provide personal assistance or other home-based services to persons with disabilities.

The bill makes additional administrative changes such as establishing an advisory and policy development board and requiring the preparation of an annual report which would summarize the office's activities and document significant problems affecting persons with disabilities.

Agency Comments

DHS and the Office of Management and Budget have not provided any fiscal information on the legislation.

Office of Legislative Services Comments

There is no new cost associated with the legislation as DHS has already established an Office on Disability Services pursuant to the

S1274 (1R)

2

Governor's Directive of October 16, 1997. The FY1999 appropriations act appropriates \$450,000 for operational costs of the office.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1274

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 29, 1998

Sponsored by:

Senator WILLIAM E. SCHLUTER

District 23 (Warren, Hunterdon and Mercer)

Senator DIANE ALLEN

District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Office of Disability Services in DHS.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Senior Citizens, Veterans' Affairs and Human Services Committee on September 24, 1998, with amendments.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/13/1999)

1 AN ACT establishing the Office of Disability Services in the
2 Department of Human Services and revising parts of the statutory
3 law.

4

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

7

8 1. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that:

9 a. New Jersey citizens with disabilities want the same things in life
10 as the other residents of this State: to be productive citizens who
11 contribute to the communities in which they live, to be good family
12 members and good neighbors, and to work hard at jobs that provide
13 satisfaction and independence.

14 b. These individuals deserve the recognition and support of State,
15 county and local governments to protect their rights and to reach their
16 full potential.

17 c. To fulfill this responsibility, State government should establish
18 a designated agency, to work cooperatively with appropriate agencies
19 in each county, which is empowered to serve citizens with disabilities
20 effectively so that comprehensive programs can be developed and
21 coordinated on a Statewide basis to support the efforts of these
22 citizens to overcome those barriers which their disabilities may pose
23 to reaching their goals.

24

25 2. (New section) As used in this act:

26 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Human Services.

27 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

28 "Director" means the Director of the Office of Disability Services
29 in the Department of Human Services.

30 "Office" means the Office of Disability Services in the Department
31 of Human Services.

32

33 3. (New section) a. There is established an Office of Disability
34 Services in the Department of Human Services.

35 b. The office shall not subsume within it any other office,
36 commission or other agency of State government, nor shall funds
37 appropriated for the operation of any other office, commission or
38 other agency of State government be expended for the establishment
39 or operation of the Office of Disability Services.

40

41 4. (New section) The administrator and head of the office shall be
42 a director who shall be known as the Director of the Office of

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SSV committee amendments adopted September 24, 1998.

1 Disability Services. The director shall be a person qualified by training
2 and experience to perform the duties of the office and shall devote his
3 entire time to the performance of those duties. The director shall be
4 appointed by the commissioner.

5 The commissioner shall appoint and remove officers and employees
6 of the office subject to the provisions of Title 11A of the New Jersey
7 Statutes and other applicable statutes as are necessary to enable the
8 office to perform its duties pursuant to this act and he shall fix their
9 compensation within the limits of available appropriations and as is
10 provided by law. ¹In order to utilize the State's disabled citizens in
11 the work of the Office of Disability Services to the maximum extent
12 possible, the commissioner or director, as appropriate, also may
13 appoint, retain or employ officers or consultants on a contract basis or
14 otherwise, as deemed necessary, and employ other qualified personnel
15 who shall be in the noncompetitive division of the career service of the
16 Civil Service.¹

17

18 5. (New section) a. The office shall serve as the single point of
19 entry within State government for persons with disabilities who are
20 seeking assistance and who do not meet the requirements for
21 disability-specific programs currently located in the department or
22 another agency of State government. The office shall operate a
23 toll-free telephone service to provide a comprehensive information and
24 referral system for persons with disabilities and their families and those
25 who serve and advocate for them, as well as members of the general
26 public, and shall periodically publish a Statewide directory of disability
27 services.

28 b. The office shall operate as the State-level coordinating body
29 between all agencies of State government providing services to
30 persons with disabilities and shall serve as a locus within State
31 government for the interests of persons with disabilities and their
32 families.

33 c. The office shall serve as the primary liaison within State
34 government to the county offices for the disabled and shall provide
35 technical assistance to the county offices and seek to establish an
36 electronic network which connects it to each of the county offices. In
37 addition, the director shall work with those counties which do not
38 maintain an office for the disabled to establish such an office and shall
39 seek federal, foundation and other grant funding to establish or
40 enhance county offices for the disabled.

41 d. The office shall administer the personal assistance services
42 program established pursuant to the "Personal Assistance Services
43 Act," P.L.1987, c.350 (C.30:4G-13 et seq.) and seek to coordinate all
44 other publicly funded programs which provide personal assistance or
45 other home-based services to persons with disabilities. The office shall
46 also operate such State, federal or foundation-funded demonstration

1 programs as may be determined by the commissioner.

2 e. The commissioner shall establish an advisory and policy
3 development board to make recommendations to the director on policy
4 and operations of the office. The membership of the board shall reflect
5 a broad spectrum of disabilities and shall include representation from
6 among the following: persons with disabilities, family members of
7 persons with disabilities, service providers and organizations or
8 agencies which advocate for persons with disabilities. The members
9 of the board shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to
10 reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of
11 their duties.

12

13 6. (New section) The commissioner shall report annually to the
14 Governor and the Legislature, which report, at a minimum, shall:
15 summarize the activities of the office for the preceding fiscal year;
16 document significant problems affecting persons with disabilities when
17 accessing public services; indicate and analyze trends in the systems of
18 care and services for persons with disabilities; and present any
19 recommendations to further the State's capacity to provide services
20 to, and advocate for the rights of, persons with disabilities, including
21 such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the
22 commissioner desires to present.

23

24 7. Section 3 of P.L.1987, c.350 (C.30:4G-15) is amended to read
25 as follows:

26 3. There is established a personal assistance services program in
27 the Office of Disability Services in the Department of Human Services,
28 to be administered by county designated agencies in each of the 21
29 counties. The program, within the limits of funds appropriated or
30 otherwise made available to it, shall assist adults with chronic physical
31 disabilities in the performance of routine, nonmedical tasks that are
32 directly related to maintaining their health and independence, in order
33 to enable these persons to be employed or receive training or
34 education related to employment or to support community-based
35 independent living. The program shall seek to promote the greatest
36 possible degree of self-control and self-direction on the part of each
37 recipient of services.

38 (cf: P.L.1993, c.215, s.3)

39

40 8. Section 8 of P.L.1987, c.350 (C.30:4G-20) is amended to read
41 as follows:

42 8. a. There is established the State Consumer Advisory Council on
43 Personal Assistance Services in the Office of Disability Services in the
44 department, which shall consist of 21 members appointed by the
45 commissioner, one from each county, at least 75 percent of whom are
46 consumers of personal assistance services.

1 Vacancies in the membership of the advisory council shall be filled
2 in the same manner provided for the original appointments. The
3 members of the advisory council shall serve without compensation but
4 shall be reimbursed for the reasonable expenses necessarily incurred in
5 the performance of their duties.

6 b. The advisory council shall organize no later than 30 days after
7 the appointment of its members and shall select a chairman from
8 among its members and a secretary who need not be a member of the
9 advisory council.

10 c. The department shall provide such stenographic, clerical and
11 other administrative assistants, and such professional staff, as the
12 advisory council requires to carry out its work.

13 d. It shall be the responsibility of the advisory council to:

14 (1) Advise the commissioner on matters pertaining to personal
15 assistance services and the development of the personal assistance
16 services program, upon the commissioner's request;

17 (2) Review the rules adopted for the personal assistance services
18 program and make recommendations to the commissioner thereon;

19 (3) Evaluate the effectiveness of the personal assistance services
20 program in meeting its objectives and share that evaluation with the
21 commissioner; and

22 (4) Actively explore innovative service delivery models to enhance
23 the consumer-driven nature of the personal assistance services
24 program.

25 (cf: P.L.1993, c.215, s.8)

26

27 9. (New section) The director or other chief administrative officer
28 of any public office of the Office of Disability Services shall:

29 a. cause copies of the voter registration forms and instructions
30 provided for under subsections e. and f. of section 16 of P.L.1974,

31 c.30 (C.19:31-6.4) and the declination form provided for in subsection
32 b. of section 26 of P.L.1994, c.182 (C.19:31-6.11) to be distributed at

33 each such office to each person appearing in person thereat to apply
34 for services or assistance provided thereby or to seek a recertification,

35 renewal or change of address relative to the assistance provided at
36 such office. An employee of the office shall inquire of every such

37 person whether the person, if not already registered to vote from the
38 place of his or her present residence, wishes to be so registered and

39 shall inform the person that whether or not the applicant chooses to
40 register will not affect the person's eligibility for those services. The

41 employee shall subsequently review the forms to determine whether or
42 not the person wishes to register to vote. If the person does not wish

43 to register, the employee shall provide the person with any assistance
44 necessary to complete the declination form and then inform the person

45 that the form shall be retained by the employee. If the person wishes
46 to register, the employee shall provide the person with any assistance

1 necessary in completing the voter registration form; shall inform the
2 applicant that the applicant may leave the completed form with the
3 employee or mail it personally to the Secretary of State; and if the
4 applicant chooses to leave the form, shall accept the completed form,
5 stamp or otherwise mark the lower right hand corner of the document
6 with the date on which it was so received, and forward it to the
7 Secretary of State. The employee shall provide to each applicant who
8 does not decline to register to vote the same degree of assistance with
9 regard to the completion of the voter registration form as is provided
10 by the office with regard to the completion of its own forms, unless
11 the applicant refuses such assistance;

12 b. provide for the continuous supply of the forms and instructions
13 specified in subsection a. of this section to every office which provides
14 assistance to persons with disabilities pursuant to P.L. ,

15 c. (C.)(pending before the Legislature as this bill);

16 c. provide the forms and instructions specified in subsection a. of
17 this section in both the English and Spanish languages to the offices
18 which are located in any county in which bilingual sample ballots must
19 be provided pursuant to R.S.19:14-21, R.S.19:49-4 or section 2 of
20 P.L.1965, c.29 (C.19:23-22.4);

21 d. provide for the collection of completed voter registration forms
22 by any employee of the office for the transmittal of the forms to the
23 Secretary of State;

24 e. provide that the forms, instructions and assistance specified in
25 subsection a. of this section shall be provided to any person with a
26 disability who receives assistance or services at that person's home
27 from an employee of the office;

28 f. inform each employee of the office who assists in registering a
29 person to vote that that employee shall not:

30 (1) seek to influence an applicant's political preference or party
31 registration;

32 (2) display any such political preference or party allegiance;

33 (3) make any statement to an applicant or take any action the
34 purpose or effect of which is to discourage the applicant from
35 registering to vote; or

36 (4) make any statement to an applicant or take any action the
37 purpose or effect of which is to lead the applicant to believe that a
38 decision to register or not to register has any bearing on the
39 availability of services or benefits; and

40 g. make certain that no information relating to a declination to
41 register to vote by an individual in connection with any type of
42 application for service made by that individual at any office is used for
43 any purpose other than voter registration.

44

45 10. Section 26 of P.L.1994, c.182 (C.19:31-6.11) is amended to
46 read as follows:

1 26. a. As used in this section, "voter registration agency" means:

2 Any agency or office serving as a food stamp issuer, pursuant to
3 P.L.1988, c.79 (C.44:8-153 et seq.) and the "Food Stamp Act of
4 1977," Pub.L.95-113 (7 U.S.C. s.2011 et seq.);

5 Any agency or office providing or administering assistance under
6 the "New Jersey Medical Assistance and Health Services Program,"
7 pursuant to P.L.1968, c.413 (C.30:4D-1 et seq.) and 42 U.S.C. s.1395
8 et seq.;

9 Any agency or office distributing food pursuant to the special
10 supplemental food program for women, infants and children (WIC),
11 established pursuant to P.L.1987, c.261 (C.26:1A-36.1 et seq.) and
12 Pub.L. 95-267 (42 U.S.C. s.1786);

13 Any agency or office administering assistance under the **["Aid to**
14 **Families With Dependent Children Program,"** established pursuant to
15 P.L.1959, c.86 (C.44:10-1) and 42 U.S.C. s.601 et seq. **】** Work First
16 New Jersey program established pursuant to P.L.1997, c.38 (C.44:10-
17 55 et seq.);

18 Any public office of the Division of Developmental Disabilities,
19 established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1985, c.145 (C.30:6D-24), in
20 the Department of Human Services;

21 Any public office of the Office of Disability Services, established
22 pursuant to section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.)(pending before the
23 Legislature as this bill), in the Department of Human Services;

24 Any recruitment office of the Armed Forces of the United States,
25 subject to any agreement between this State and the Secretary of
26 Defense of the United States for the joint development and
27 implementation, as provided under subsection (c) of section 7 of
28 Pub.L.103-31 (42 U.S.C. s. 1973gg-6), of procedures for applying at
29 those offices to register to vote;

30 Any office of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services of
31 the New Jersey Department of Labor;

32 Any office of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired
33 of the New Jersey Department of Human Services;

34 Any county welfare agency or county board of social services
35 established pursuant to the provisions of chapter 1 or chapter 4 of
36 Title 44 of the Revised Statutes;

37 The office of the commissioner of registration in the several
38 counties of this State; and

39 Any office of the municipal clerk in the several municipalities of this
40 State.

41 b. With each voter registration form and instructions provided to
42 the chief administrative officer at each voter registration agency under
43 subsections e. and f. of section 16 of P.L.1974, c.30 (C.19:31-6.4),
44 the Secretary of State shall provide at the same time a declination form
45 that includes:

46 (1) the question: "If you are not registered to vote where you live

1 now, would you like to apply to register to vote here today?";

2 (2) the statement: "Applying to register or declining to register to
3 vote will not affect the amount of assistance that you will be provided
4 by this agency.";

5 (3) boxes for the applicant to check to indicate whether the
6 applicant would or would not like to register to vote, together with the
7 statement "IF YOU DO NOT CHECK EITHER BOX, YOU WILL
8 BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE DECIDED NOT TO REGISTER TO
9 VOTE AT THIS TIME.";

10 (4) the statement: "If you would like help in filling out the voter
11 registration application form, we will help you. The decision to seek
12 or accept help is yours. You may fill out the application form in
13 private.";

14 (5) the statement: "If you believe that someone has interfered with
15 your right to register or to decline to register to vote, your right to
16 privacy in deciding whether to register or in applying to register to
17 vote, or your right to choose your own political party or other political
18 preference, you may file a complaint with the Secretary of State."
19 (insert address and current telephone number); and

20 (6) the statement: IF YOU DECLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE
21 AT THIS TIME, YOUR DECISION WILL REMAIN
22 CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL BE USED ONLY FOR VOTER
23 REGISTRATION PURPOSES. IF YOU DO REGISTER TO VOTE,
24 THE WAY IN WHICH YOU DO SO WILL REMAIN
25 CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL BE USED ONLY FOR VOTER
26 REGISTRATION PURPOSES.

27 c. The Secretary of State shall cause to be prepared declination
28 forms in the form provided for by subsection b. of this section in both
29 the English and Spanish languages and shall provide such forms to the
30 chief administrative officer of each voter registration agency which has
31 an office in any county in which there is at least one election district
32 in which bilingual sample ballots must be provided pursuant to
33 R.S.19:14-21, R.S.19:49-4 or section 2 of P.L.1965, c.29
34 (C.19:23-22.4).

35 d. The Secretary of State shall adopt, pursuant to consultation
36 with the chief administrative officers at voter registration agencies,
37 regulations for the prompt return of the completed voter registration
38 forms, but in no case shall the forms be returned later than the fifth day
39 following the date on which the completed forms are received by the
40 voter registration agencies.

41 e. All registration forms received by the Secretary of State in the
42 mail or forwarded to the Secretary of State by employees or agents of
43 the voter registration agencies shall be forwarded to the commissioner
44 of registration in the county of the registrant.

45 f. Each completed declination form received by a voter
46 registration agency shall be kept confidential for a period of at least

1 two years. The Secretary of State shall determine, pursuant to
2 consultation with the chief administrative officers at voter registration
3 agencies, which office or agency shall retain the declination forms.
4 (cf: P.L.1994, c.182, s.26)

5
6 11. Section 2 of P.L.1995, c.318 (C.26:2B-37) is amended to read
7 as follows:

8 2. The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services shall establish
9 an "Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing
10 and Disabled" in consultation with the program advisory committee
11 established pursuant to this section and in consultation with and after
12 review by the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

13 There is established a program advisory committee to advise the
14 commissioner on the establishment and operation of the "Alcohol and
15 Drug Abuse Program for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Disabled."
16 The members of the advisory committee shall be appointed by the
17 commissioner and shall consist of five members who are either deaf,
18 hard of hearing, or disabled, two members of the public with an
19 interest in issues relating to alcohol and drug abuse and one
20 representative each from the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and
21 Drug Abuse, the Developmental Disabilities Council, the Division of
22 Vocational Rehabilitation Services in the Department of Labor, and
23 the Division of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Office of
24 Disability Services in the Department of Human Services. The
25 commissioner shall serve as an ex officio member of the committee.
26 (cf: P.L.1995, c.318, s.2)

27
28 12. Section 3 of P.L.1981, c.488 (C.30:6-25) is amended to read
29 as follows:

30 3. There is established in the Department of Human Services, the
31 Commodities and Services Council for blind and other severely
32 handicapped persons. The council shall consist of the Director of the
33 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services; the Director of the
34 Office of Purchase and Property; the Chief of the Bureau of State Use
35 Industries; the Director of the Office of Development for Small
36 Businesses and Women and Minority Businesses in the Department of
37 Commerce **【, Energy】** and Economic Development; the Director of the
38 Division of Developmental Disabilities and the Director of the Office
39 of Disability Services in the Department of Human Services; the
40 Executive Director of the Commission for the Blind and Visually
41 Impaired; the President of the New Jersey Association of
42 Rehabilitation Facilities; or their designees; three citizens as at-large
43 members, at least one of whom shall be a blind person, and at least one
44 of whom shall represent the private business sector. The at-large
45 members shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and
46 consent of the Senate, for terms of three years, except that of the first

1 at-large members appointed, one shall be appointed for a term of three
2 years, one for a term of two years, and one for a term of one year.
3 (cf: P.L.1991, c.147, s.3)

4
5 13. Section 3 of P.L.1949, c.280 (C.39:4-206) is amended to read
6 as follows:

7 3. The director shall issue to such applicant, also, a placard of
8 such size and design as shall be determined by the director in
9 consultation with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services
10 in the Department of Labor and the Office of Disability Services in the
11 Department of Human Services, indicating that a handicapped person
12 identification card has been issued to the person designated therein,
13 which shall be displayed in such manner as the director shall determine
14 on the motor vehicle used to transport the handicapped person, when
15 the vehicle is parked overtime or in special parking places established
16 for use by handicapped persons.

17 Notwithstanding any provision of **[this act]** P.L.1949, c.280
18 (C.39:4-204 et seq.) to the contrary, the chief of police of each
19 municipality in this State shall issue to any person who has temporarily
20 lost the use of one or more limbs or is temporarily disabled as to be
21 unable to ambulate without the aid of an assisting device or whose
22 mobility is otherwise temporarily limited, as certified by a physician
23 with a plenary license to practice medicine and surgery or a podiatrist
24 licensed to practice in this State or a bordering state, or a physician
25 stationed at a military or naval installation located in this State who is
26 licensed to practice in any state, a temporary placard of not more than
27 six months' duration. Each temporary handicapped placard issued
28 under the provisions of this section shall set forth the date on which it
29 shall become invalid.

30 The temporary placard shall be granted upon written certification
31 by a physician with a plenary license to practice medicine and surgery
32 or a podiatrist licensed to practice in this State or a bordering state or
33 a physician stationed at a military or naval installation located in this
34 State who is licensed to practice in any state that the person meets the
35 conditions constituting temporary disability as provided in this section.
36 This certification shall be provided on a standard form to be developed
37 by the director in consultation with local chiefs of police and
38 representatives of the handicapped. The form shall contain only those
39 conditions constituting temporary disability as are provided in this
40 section. The physical presence of the handicapped person shall not be
41 required for the issuance of a temporary handicapped placard.

42 The placard may be renewed one time at the discretion of the
43 issuing authority for a period of not more than six months' duration.
44 The placard shall be displayed on the motor vehicle used by the
45 temporarily handicapped person and shall give the person the right to
46 park overtime or to use special parking places established for use by

1 handicapped persons in any municipality of this State.

2 The fee for the issuance of such temporary or permanent placard
3 issued pursuant to this section shall be \$4.00 and payable to the
4 Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

5 The director may, in addition, issue license plates bearing the
6 national wheelchair symbol for:

7 a. Not more than two motor vehicles owned, operated or leased
8 by a handicapped person or by any person furnishing transportation on
9 his behalf; or

10 b. Any two motorcycles owned, operated or leased by a
11 handicapped person.

12 The fee for the issuance of such plates shall be \$10.00 for each
13 vehicle.

14 (cf: P.L.1997, c.267, s.2)

15

16 14. Section 2 of P.L.1975, c.224 (C.52:32-15) is amended to read
17 as follows:

18 2. To carry out the purpose of section 1 of **[this act]** P.L.1975,
19 c.224 (C.52:32-14) the Department of Transportation shall, within 30
20 days of the enactment of **[this act]** P.L.1975, c.224 (C.52:32-14 et
21 seq.), and periodically thereafter as necessary, after consultation with
22 the Director of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services of
23 the Department of Labor **[and Industry]** and the Director of the Office
24 of Disability Services and the chairman of the State Commission for
25 the Blind and Visually Impaired of the Department of **[Institutions and**
26 **Agencies]** Human Services, prescribe standards, which shall include,
27 but not be limited to, standards of drainage, slope gradient, width, and
28 slip-resistant qualities which will assure that a sidewalk will
29 accommodate a person in a wheelchair or other handicapped persons.
30 All agencies and instrumentalities of State and local government, and
31 every other person, firm, corporation or association shall comply with
32 these standards and the provisions of **[this act]** P.L.1975, c.224
33 (C.52:32-14 et seq.) when undertaking construction or reconstruction
34 of streets, curbs or sidewalks.

35 (cf: P.L.1975, c.224, s.2)

36

37 15. The commissioner shall adopt rules and regulations pursuant
38 to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1
39 et seq.) to effectuate the purposes of this act.

40

41 16. This act shall take effect immediately.

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Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE: January 25, 1999

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

S-452, sponsored by Senators Wynona M. Lipman (D-Essex/Union) and Donald T. DiFrancesco (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and Assembly Members Tom Smith (R-Monmouth) and John E. Rooney (R-Bergen), appropriates \$90,000 and establishes a "Fost-Adopt Demonstration Program for Boarder Babies and Children" in the Division of Youth and Family Services in the Department of Human Services. Initially, the program will be established in Essex County to support the DHS existing efforts with federal funding in that county, and expire two years after its enactment. Within six months of the expiration of the program, the commissioner of DHS must report to the Governor regarding the effectiveness of the demonstration program and make recommendations for a state-wide expansion, as appropriate.

S-1176, sponsored by Senators Robert J. Martin (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Byron M. Baer (D-Bergen), provides for the certification of public school athletic trainers by the Department of Education. The bill grandfatheres school athletic trainers appointed prior to the effective date of the act from the certification requirements. The bill also provides that school athletic trainers are teaching staff members and that as such are entitled to tenure protection under current statute.

S-1543, sponsored by Senators William L. Gormley (R-Atlantic) and John A. Lynch (D-Middlesex/Somerset/Union) and Assembly Member David C. Russo (R-Bergen/Passaic), amends current law to provide that all employees of the of the State Commission of Investigation (SCI) shall be confidential employees for the purposes of the New Jersey Employer-Employe Relations Act. Under the provisions of that act, confidential employees are not eligible to organize into collective bargaining units.

S-1679, sponsored by Senators Henry P. McNamara (R-Bergen/Passaic) and Joseph F. Vitale (D-Middlesex) and Assembly Member Steve Corodemus (R-Monmouth), amends the Underground Storage Tank Financing Act to clarify that conditional hardship grants for owners or operators of underground storage tanks used to store heating oil at the applicant's primary residence shall not be repaid. The act currently requires that residential homeowners obtaining conditional hardship grants pay them back to the Economic Development Authority. The bill also increases the amount of the Corporate Business Tax allocated for underground storage tank remediation from 10 percent to one-third. Furthermore, there would be no limitation on the percentage of funds to be used as grants between January 1, 1999 and March 31, 2000.

A-148, sponsored Assembly Members Christopher "Kip" Bateman (R- Morris) and Wilfredo Caraballo (D-Essex), revises and codifies certain criminal laws. The bill implements a number of recommendations made by the New Jersey Law Revision Commission, which was established to review New Jersey laws to correct inconsistent statutes, and to update obsolete statutes. The bill addresses anomalies left in the law following the enactment of the Criminal Code in 1979 and the Comprehensive Drug Reform Act in 1986. Specifically, the legislation places various criminal provisions, which were previously found in Titles 2A and 24 of the New Jersey Statutes, in Title 2 C, thereby making them part of the New Jersey Criminal Code. It also repeals sections of the Sunday closing laws and recodifies those provisions in Title 40A of the New Jersey Statutes, which deals with counties and municipalities. Lastly, the bill repeals various provisions that are obsolete or superseded by other provisions in the law.

A-808, sponsored by Assembly Members Charlotte Vandervalk (R- Bergen) and John E. Rooney (R-Bergen) and Senator William E. Schluter (R-Warren/Hunterdon), establishes the Office of Disability Services (ODS) in the Department of Human Services (DHS). Specifically, the office shall: (1) operate a toll-free telephone service to provide a comprehensive information and referral system; (2) operate as the state-level coordinating body between all state agencies providing services to persons with disabilities; (3) serve as the primary liaison within state government to the county offices for the disabled; (4) work with those counties which do not maintain an office for the disabled to establish such an office; and (5) administer the personal assistance services program in DHS and seek to coordinate all publicly-funded programs which provide personal assistance or other home-based services to persons with disabilities. The bill further requires the commissioner of the DHS to establish an advisory and policy development board to make recommendations to the director of the ODS.

A-974, sponsored by Assembly Members Kenneth C. LeFevre (R- Atlantic) and Francis J. Blee (R-Atlantic) and Senator Robert W. Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Martha W. Bark (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Camden), requires the Division of Taxation to allow income tax filers to make voluntary contributions to the Korean Veterans' Memorial Fund. Revenue generated by these contributions will be used to help finance the construction and maintenance of a memorial to Korean War veterans, which will be built in Atlantic City.

A-1441, sponsored by Assembly Members Jack Collins (R-Salem/Cumberland/Gloucester) and Gary W. Stuhltrager (R- Salem/Cumberland/Gloucester), defines who may qualify as a farmer for the purpose of obtaining a fee exemption provided to farmers and their close relatives for deer-hunting permits. The bill extends the permit fee exemption to both resident and non-resident farmers who own or lease their farms, as well as their spouses and children who reside in their households. No more than five permits in total shall be issued for each household. The bill defines a farmer eligible for the permit fee exemption as one who owns or leases a farm on which that person resides that is valued, assessed and taxed as land actively devoted to agricultural or horticultural use pursuant to the Farmland Assessment Act of 1964. If the farmer does not reside

on the farm he owns or leases, to qualify for the exemption, the bill requires that the person actively farm at least 30 tilled, non-woodland acres and the farm.

A-1635, sponsored by Assembly Members Joel M. Weingarten (R- Essex/Union) and Kevin J. O'Toole (R-Essex/Union) and Senator Anthony R. Bucco (R-Morris), simplifies employer reporting and payment of gross income tax withholding and wages for household workers. The bill streamlines the process by allowing employers to report and remit annually to the Division of Revenue, on a combined basis, both (1) gross income tax withheld, and (2) wage taxes. The annual reporting and payment requirement will replace the current more burdensome law which required several reports and payments each year for both gross income tax withheld and wage taxes.

A-1773, sponsored by Assembly Member Paul DiGaetano (R- Bergen/Essex/Passaic), amends the criminal statute concerning theft and criminal mischief to make the offense of tampering with a grave, crypt, mausoleum or other site where human remains are stored a third-degree crime punishable by a three-to-five-year term of imprisonment or a fine of \$15,000 or both. The bill also amends the theft statute to include the theft of human remains as a crime of the second degree. A second-degree crime is punishable by a term of imprisonment of five to ten years or a fine of \$10,000 or both.

A-2306, sponsored by Assembly Members Paul DiGaetano (R- Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Joseph V. Doria (D-Hudson) and Senator Donald T. DiFrancesco (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union), allows elected officials to retire from the Police and Firemen's Retirement System (PFRS) and remain in office if retirement allowance is not based solely on that service. Under current law, elected officials who are members of Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) are allowed to retire from PERS and remain in the office to which they are elected so long as the PERS retirement allowance is not based solely on service in that elected office. This means that the elected official is entitled to retire from PERS and collect a pension while receiving a salary as an elected official as long as the pension is not based solely on service in that elected office. On the other hand, elected officials enrolled in PFRS are not allowed to retire from PFRS and collect a pension while receiving a salary in that elected office. This bill addresses the disparity by offering elected officials enrolled in PFRS the same option currently provided to elected officials enrolled in PERS.

A-2536, sponsored by Assembly Members Francis J. Blee (R-Atlantic) and Kenneth C. LeFevre (R-Atlantic) and Senator William L. Gormley (R-Atlantic), authorizes the state treasurer to sell certain surplus property in Galloway Township, Atlantic County and to grant certain easements for access to such property. The bill authorizes the treasurer, on behalf of Richard Stockton College of New Jersey to (1) sell land and improvements used as the colleges' potable water supply, treatment, storage and distribution system (specifically including five-plus acres of land, two wells, the treatment and pumping plant, the storage tank and distribution system); (2) grant permanent easements for the operation, maintenance and repair of the land and property and for any future system expansion; and (3) provide for the transfer of the water allocation diversion permit issued by the Department of Environmental Protection and held by the college for the operation

of the two wells. The sale, easements and transfer will be made to the New Jersey American Water Company. The anticipated \$2 million in proceeds will be retained in a special account for allocation to Stockton College.

A-2921, sponsored by Assembly Members Richard H. Bagger (R- Middlesex/Morris/Somerset /Union) and Joseph Charles, Jr. (D-Hudson) and Senators Robert E. Littell (R-Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris) and Bernard F. Kenny, Jr. (D- Hudson), permits informational displays of appropriations within the annual appropriations act. The bill will allow the act to incorporate charts or displays summarizing the various appropriations. It is anticipated that such a chart would be included along with each department's budget section.