

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS of 1999

CHAPTER: 119

NJSA:2C:25-33

(Domestic violence -- statistics)

BILL NO: S1640(Substituted for A2798)

SPONSOR(S):Lipman and Furnari

DATE INTRODUCED:January 21, 1999

COMMITTEE:

ASSEMBLY:-----

SENATE:Law and Public Safety

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:Yes

DATES OF PASSAGE:

ASSEMBLY:May 10, 1999

SENATE:March 22, 1999

DATE OF APPROVAL:June 9, 1999

THE FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL: *Yes*1st Reprint

(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

S1640

SPONSORS STATEMENT: *Yes* (Begins on page 4 of original bill)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY:*No*

SENATE: *Yes*

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: *No*

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: *Yes*

A2798

SPONSORS STATEMENT: *Yes (Begins on page 4 of original bill)*

Bill and Sponsor's Statement identical to S1640

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY: *Yes*

SENATE: *No*

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: *No*

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: *Yes*

GOVERNOR'S ACTIONS

VETO MESSAGE: *No*

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: *Yes*

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS:

974.90 W872, 1998c

New Jersey. Legislature. Assembly Task Force on Domestic Violence
Findings and recommendations. July 1998, Trenton, 1998.

[see pp. iv, 9].

HEARINGS:

974.90 W872, 1998b

New Jersey. Legislature. Assembly. Task Force on Domestic Violence
Meeting, held March 20, 1998. Trenton, 1998.

974.90 W872, 1998a

New Jersey. Legislature. Assembly. Task Force on Domestic Violence
Hearing held March 6, 1998. Trenton, 1998.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: *No*

P.L. 1999, CHAPTER 119, *approved June 9, 1999*

Senate, No. 1640 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning certain domestic violence information and
2 amending P.L.1991, c.261.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 17 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-33) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 17. a. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall, with the
10 assistance of the Attorney General and the county prosecutors,
11 maintain a uniform record of all applications for relief pursuant to
12 sections 9, 10, 12, and 13 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-25,
13 C.2C:25-26, C.2C:25-28, and C.2C:25-29). The record shall include
14 the following information:

15 **[a.]**(1) The number of criminal and civil complaints filed in all
16 municipal courts and the Superior Court;

17 **[b.]** (2) The sex of the parties;

18 **[c.]** (3) The relationship of the parties;

19 **[d.]** (4) The relief sought or the offense charged, or both;

20 **[e.]** (5) The nature of the relief granted or penalty imposed, or
21 both, including, but not limited to, the following:

22 (a) custody **[and]**;

23 (b) child support;

24 (c) the specific restraints ordered;

25 (d) any requirements or conditions imposed pursuant to paragraphs
26 (1) through (18) of subsection b. of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-29),
27 including but not limited to professional counseling or psychiatric
28 evaluations;

29 **[f.]** (6) The effective date of each order issued; and

30 **[g.]** (7) In the case of a civil action in which no permanent
31 restraints are entered, or in the case of a criminal matter that does not
32 proceed to trial, the reason or reasons for the disposition.

33 It shall be the duty of the Director of the Administrative Office of
34 the Courts to compile and report annually to the Governor, the
35 Legislature and the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence on the
36 data tabulated from the records of these orders.

37 All records maintained pursuant to this act shall be confidential and
38 shall not be made available to any individual or institution except as
39 otherwise provided by law.

40 b. In addition to the provisions of subsection a. of this section, the

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹ Senate SLP committee amendments adopted March 15, 1999.

1 Administrative Office of the Courts shall, with the assistance of the
2 Attorney General and the county prosecutors, create and maintain
3 uniform forms to record sentencing, bail conditions and dismissals.
4 The forms shall be used by the Superior Court and by every municipal
5 court to record any order in a case brought pursuant to this act. Such
6 recording shall include but not be limited to, the specific restraints
7 ordered, any requirements or conditions imposed on the defendant,
8 and any conditions of bail.

9 (cf: P.L.1994, c.94, s.8)

10

11 2. Section 8 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-24) is amended to read
12 as follows:

13 8. a. It shall be the duty of a law enforcement officer who
14 responds to a domestic violence call to complete a domestic violence
15 offense report. All information contained in the domestic violence
16 offense report shall be forwarded to the appropriate county bureau of
17 identification and to the State bureau of records and identification in
18 the Division of State Police in the Department of Law and Public
19 Safety. A copy of the domestic violence offense report shall be
20 forwarded to the municipal court where the offense was committed
21 unless the case has been transferred to the Superior Court.

22 b. The domestic violence offense report shall be on a form
23 prescribed by the supervisor of the State bureau of records and
24 identification which shall include, but not be limited to, the following
25 information:

26 (1) The relationship of the parties;

27 (2) The sex of the parties;

28 (3) The time and date of the incident;

29 (4) The number of domestic violence calls investigated;

30 (5) Whether children were involved, or whether the alleged act of
31 domestic violence had been committed in the presence of children;

32 (6) The type and extent of abuse;

33 (7) The number and type of weapons involved;

34 (8) The action taken by the law enforcement officer;

35 (9) The existence of any prior court orders issued pursuant to this
36 act concerning the parties; **[and]**

37 (10) The number of domestic violence calls alleging a violation of
38 a domestic violence restraining order;

39 (11) The number of arrests for a violations of a domestic violence
40 order; and

41 (12) Any other data that may be necessary for a complete analysis
42 of all circumstances leading to the alleged incident of domestic
43 violence.

44 c. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent of the State Police with
45 the assistance of the Division of Systems and Communications in the
46 Department of Law and Public Safety to compile and report annually

1 to the Governor, the Legislature and the Advisory Council on
2 Domestic Violence on the tabulated data from the domestic violence
3 offense reports¹, classified by county¹.
4 (cf: P.L.1991, c.261, s.8)

5

6 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

7

8

9

10

11 _____
12 Increases requirements for court and State Police reporting of
statistical information concerning domestic violence incidents.

SENATE, No. 1640

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 21, 1999

Sponsored by:

Senator WYNONA M. LIPMAN

District 29 (Essex and Union)

Senator GARRY J. FURNARI

District 36 (Bergen, Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Adler, Kenny, Lynch, O'Connor, Codey, Turner, Lesniak and Zane

SYNOPSIS

Increases requirements for court and State Police reporting of statistical information concerning domestic violence incidents.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning certain domestic violence information and
2 amending P.L.1991, c.261.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 17 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-33) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 17.a. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall, with the
10 assistance of the Attorney General and the county prosecutors,
11 maintain a uniform record of all applications for relief pursuant to
12 sections 9, 10, 12, and 13 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-25,
13 C.2C:25-26, C.2C:25-28, and C.2C:25-29). The record shall include
14 the following information:

15 **[a.]**(1) The number of criminal and civil complaints filed in all
16 municipal courts and the Superior Court;

17 **[b.]** (2) The sex of the parties;

18 **[c.]** (3) The relationship of the parties;

19 **[d.]** (4) The relief sought or the offense charged, or both;

20 **[e.]** (5) The nature of the relief granted or penalty imposed, or
21 both, including, but not limited to, the following:

22 (a) custody **[and]**;

23 (b) child support;

24 (c) the specific restraints ordered;

25 (d) any requirements or conditions imposed pursuant to paragraphs
26 (1) through (18) of subsection b. of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-29),
27 including but not limited to professional counseling or psychiatric
28 evaluations;

29 **[f.]** (6) The effective date of each order issued; and

30 **[g.]** (7) In the case of a civil action in which no permanent
31 restraints are entered, or in the case of a criminal matter that does not
32 proceed to trial, the reason or reasons for the disposition.

33 It shall be the duty of the Director of the Administrative Office of
34 the Courts to compile and report annually to the Governor, the
35 Legislature and the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence on the
36 data tabulated from the records of these orders.

37 All records maintained pursuant to this act shall be confidential and
38 shall not be made available to any individual or institution except as
39 otherwise provided by law.

40 b. In addition to the provisions of subsection a. of this section, the
41 Administrative Office of the Courts shall, with the assistance of the
42 Attorney General and the county prosecutors, create and maintain

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 uniform forms to record sentencing, bail conditions and dismissals.
2 The forms shall be used by the Superior Court and by every municipal
3 court to record any order in a case brought pursuant to this act. Such
4 recording shall include but not be limited to, the specific restraints
5 ordered, any requirements or conditions imposed on the defendant,
6 and any conditions of bail.

7 (cf: P.L.1994,c.94,s.8)

8

9 2. Section 8 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-24) is amended to read
10 as follows:

11 8. a. It shall be the duty of a law enforcement officer who
12 responds to a domestic violence call to complete a domestic violence
13 offense report. All information contained in the domestic violence
14 offense report shall be forwarded to the appropriate county bureau of
15 identification and to the State bureau of records and identification in
16 the Division of State Police in the Department of Law and Public
17 Safety. A copy of the domestic violence offense report shall be
18 forwarded to the municipal court where the offense was committed
19 unless the case has been transferred to the Superior Court.

20 b. The domestic violence offense report shall be on a form
21 prescribed by the supervisor of the State bureau of records and
22 identification which shall include, but not be limited to, the following
23 information:

24 (1) The relationship of the parties;

25 (2) The sex of the parties;

26 (3) The time and date of the incident;

27 (4) The number of domestic violence calls investigated;

28 (5) Whether children were involved, or whether the alleged act of
29 domestic violence had been committed in the presence of children;

30 (6) The type and extent of abuse;

31 (7) The number and type of weapons involved;

32 (8) The action taken by the law enforcement officer;

33 (9) The existence of any prior court orders issued pursuant to this
34 act concerning the parties; **[and]**

35 (10) The number of domestic violence calls alleging a violation of
36 a domestic violence restraining order;

37 (11) The number of arrests for a violation of a domestic violence
38 order; and

39 (12) Any other data that may be necessary for a complete analysis
40 of all circumstances leading to the alleged incident of domestic
41 violence.

42 c. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent of the State Police
43 with the assistance of the Division of Systems and Communications in
44 the Department of Law and Public Safety to compile and report
45 annually to the Governor, the Legislature and the Advisory Council on
46 Domestic Violence on the tabulated data from the domestic violence

1 offense reports.
2 (cf: P.L.1991,c.261,s.8)

3

4 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

5

6

7

STATEMENT

8

9 This bill would strengthen the current requirements for the courts
10 and police to provide the public with detailed statistical information
11 concerning domestic violence cases.

12 Under the bill, the Administrative Office of the Courts would be
13 required to compile information concerning specific restraints ordered
14 in domestic violence cases, and specific requirements imposed on
15 defendants, such as batterers' counseling and psychiatric evaluations.
16 The AOC would also develop a uniform form to record court orders
17 issued in the municipal court and Superior Court in order to facilitate
18 the tracking of these cases through the court system.

19 In addition, this bill expands the categories of data on domestic
20 violence incidents currently required to be compiled and published by
21 the State Police. Under the bill, the number of complaints alleging
22 violations of domestic violence restraining orders and the number of
23 arrests for violations of these orders would be required to be compiled
24 and publicly reported.

25 This bill embodies Recommendation #20 of the report of the
26 Assembly Task Force on Domestic Violence, issued in July 1998.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1640

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 15, 1999

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1640.

This bill would strengthen the current requirements for the courts and police to provide the public with detailed statistical information concerning domestic violence cases.

Under the bill, the Administrative Office of the Courts would be required to compile information concerning specific restraints ordered in domestic violence cases, and specific requirements imposed on defendants, such as batterers' counseling and psychiatric evaluations. The AOC would also develop a uniform form to record court orders issued in the municipal court and Superior Court in order to facilitate the tracking of these cases through the court system.

In addition, this bill expands the categories of data on domestic violence incidents currently required to be compiled and published by the State Police. Under the bill, the number of complaints alleging violations of domestic violence restraining orders and the number of arrests for violations of these orders would be required to be compiled and publicly reported.

The committee amended the bill to require that the tabulated data in the State Police's annual report to the Governor and the Legislature on domestic violence required under current law be classified by county.

This bill embodies Recommendation #20 of the report of the Assembly Task Force on Domestic Violence, issued in July 1998.

FISCAL NOTE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1640

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

208th LEGISLATURE

DATED: AUGUST 24, 1999

Senate Bill No. 1640 (1R) of 1999 requires the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), with the assistance of the Attorney General and the various county prosecutors of the State, to expand the information compiled concerning domestic violence cases to include (1) information on the specific restraints ordered in each case and (2) the specific requirements imposed on the defendants, such as batterers' counseling and psychiatric evaluations. In addition, the AOC, with the assistance of the Attorney General and the various county prosecutors of the State, is required to develop and maintain a uniform form on which to record court orders issued in both the municipal court and Superior Courts. The purpose of these new forms is to facilitate the tracking of domestic violence cases through the court system.

The bill also expands the categories of data the State Police are required to compile, classify by county, and publish on domestic violence incidents. The new categories are (1) the number of domestic violence calls alleging a violation of a domestic violence restraining order and (2) the number of arrests for a violation of a domestic violence order.

The AOC states that the first year cost of preparing and printing the required forms would total \$30,000. Second and subsequent year cost for the printing of these forms would total \$20,000.

The Office of Legislative Services concurs.

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

ASSEMBLY, No. 2798

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 12, 1999

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman ROSE MARIE HECK

District 38 (Bergen)

Assemblyman JOSEPH AZZOLINA

District 13 (Middlesex and Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Holzapfel, Wolfe, Garrett, Assemblywoman Murphy,

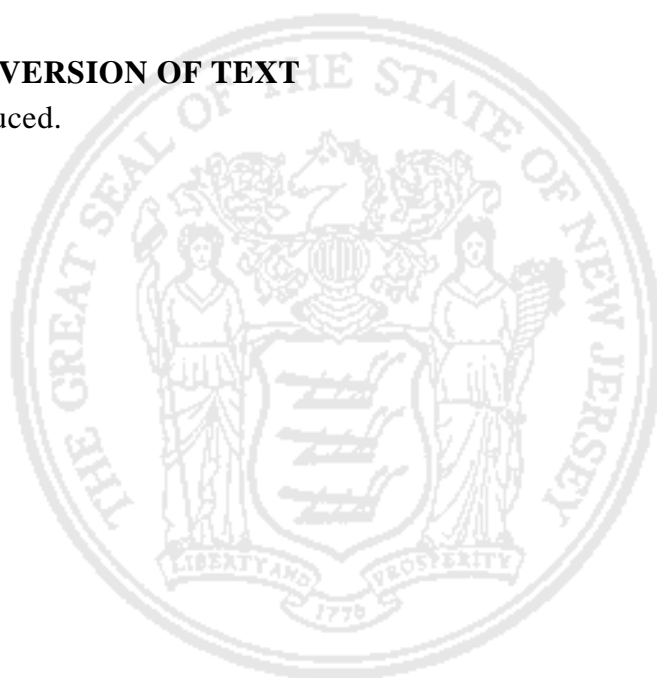
Assemblymen Conaway and Connors

SYNOPSIS

Increases requirements for court and State Police reporting of statistical information concerning domestic violence incidents.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/11/1999)

1 AN ACT concerning certain domestic violence information and
2 amending P.L.1991, c.261.

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

6
7 1. Section 17 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-33) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 17.a. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall, with the
10 assistance of the Attorney General and the county prosecutors,
11 maintain a uniform record of all applications for relief pursuant to
12 sections 9, 10, 12, and 13 of P.L.1991, c. 261 (C.2C:25-25,
13 C.2C:25-26, C.2C:25-28, and C.2C:25-29). The record shall include
14 the following information:

15 **[a.]**(1) The number of criminal and civil complaints filed in all
16 municipal courts and the Superior Court;

17 **[b.]** (2) The sex of the parties;

18 **[c.]** (3) The relationship of the parties;

19 **[d.]** (4) The relief sought or the offense charged, or both;

20 **[e.]** (5) The nature of the relief granted or penalty imposed, or
21 both, including, but not limited to, the following:

22 (a) custody **[and]**;

23 (b) child support;

24 (c) the specific restraints ordered;

25 (d) any requirements or conditions imposed pursuant to paragraphs
26 (1) through (18) of subsection b. of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-29),
27 including but not limited to professional counseling or psychiatric
28 evaluations;

29 **[f.]** (6) The effective date of each order issued; and

30 **[g.]** (7) In the case of a civil action in which no permanent
31 restraints are entered, or in the case of a criminal matter that does not
32 proceed to trial, the reason or reasons for the disposition.

33 It shall be the duty of the Director of the Administrative Office of
34 the Courts to compile and report annually to the Governor, the
35 Legislature and the Advisory Council on Domestic Violence on the
36 data tabulated from the records of these orders.

37 All records maintained pursuant to this act shall be confidential and
38 shall not be made available to any individual or institution except as
39 otherwise provided by law.

40 b. In addition to the provisions of subsection a. of this section, the
41 Administrative Office of the Courts shall, with the assistance of the
42 Attorney General and the county prosecutors, create and maintain

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 uniform forms to record sentencing, bail conditions and dismissals.
2 The forms shall be used by the Superior Court and by every municipal
3 court to record any order in a case brought pursuant to this act. Such
4 recording shall include but not be limited to, the specific restraints
5 ordered, any requirements or conditions imposed on the defendant,
6 and any conditions of bail.

7 (cf: P.L.1994, c.94, s.8)

8

9 2. Section 8 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-24) is amended to read
10 as follows:

11 8. a. It shall be the duty of a law enforcement officer who responds
12 to a domestic violence call to complete a domestic violence offense
13 report. All information contained in the domestic violence offense
14 report shall be forwarded to the appropriate county bureau of
15 identification and to the State bureau of records and identification in
16 the Division of State Police in the Department of Law and Public
17 Safety. A copy of the domestic violence offense report shall be
18 forwarded to the municipal court where the offense was committed
19 unless the case has been transferred to the Superior Court.

20 b. The domestic violence offense report shall be on a form
21 prescribed by the supervisor of the State bureau of records and
22 identification which shall include, but not be limited to, the following
23 information:

24 (1) The relationship of the parties;

25 (2) The sex of the parties;

26 (3) The time and date of the incident;

27 (4) The number of domestic violence calls investigated;

28 (5) Whether children were involved, or whether the alleged act of
29 domestic violence had been committed in the presence of children;

30 (6) The type and extent of abuse;

31 (7) The number and type of weapons involved;

32 (8) The action taken by the law enforcement officer;

33 (9) The existence of any prior court orders issued pursuant to this
34 act concerning the parties; **【and】**

35 (10) The number of domestic violence calls alleging a violation of
36 a domestic violence restraining order;

37 (11) The number of arrests for a violations of a domestic violence
38 order; and

39 (12) Any other data that may be necessary for a complete analysis
40 of all circumstances leading to the alleged incident of domestic
41 violence.

42 c. It shall be the duty of the Superintendent of the State Police
43 with the assistance of the Division of Systems and Communications in
44 the Department of Law and Public Safety to compile and report
45 annually to the Governor, the Legislature and the Advisory Council on
46 Domestic Violence on the tabulated data from the domestic violence

1 offense reports.
2 (cf: P.L.1991, c.261, s.8)

3

4 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

5

6

7

STATEMENT

8

9 This bill would strengthen the current requirements for the courts
10 and police to provide the public with detailed statistical information
11 concerning domestic violence cases.

12 Under the bill, the Administrative Office of the Courts would be
13 required to compile information concerning specific restraints ordered
14 in domestic violence cases, and specific requirements imposed on
15 defendants, such as batterers' counseling and psychiatric evaluations.
16 The AOC would also develop a uniform form to record court orders
17 issued in the municipal court and Superior Court in order to facilitate
18 the tracking of these cases through the court system.

19 In addition, this bill expands the categories of data on domestic
20 violence incidents currently required to be compiled and published by
21 the State Police. Under the bill, the number of complaints alleging
22 violations of domestic violence restraining orders and the number of
23 arrests for violations of these orders would be required to be compiled
24 and publicly reported.

25 This bill embodies Recommendation #20 of the report of the
26 Assembly Task Force on Domestic Violence, issued in July 1998.

ASSEMBLY POLICY AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2798

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 4, 1999

The Assembly Policy and Regulatory Oversight Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2798.

Assembly Bill No.2798 amends sections 17 and 8 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-33 and 2C:25-24) to expand the types and categories of information that the courts and police are required to compile concerning domestic violence cases.

Section 17 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-33) is amended to require the Administrative Office of the Courts, with the assistance of the Attorney General and the various county prosecutors of the State, to expand the information they compile concerning domestic violence cases to include (1) information on the specific restraints ordered in each case and (2) the specific requirements imposed on the defendants, such as batterers' counseling and psychiatric evaluations. In addition, the section is amended to direct the Administrative Office of the Courts, with the assistance of the Attorney General and the various county prosecutors of the State, to develop and maintain a uniform form on which to record court orders issued in both the municipal court and Superior Courts. The purpose of these new forms is to facilitate the tracking of domestic violence cases through the court system.

The bill also amends section 8 of P.L.1991, c.261 (C.2C:25-24) to expand the categories of data the State Police are required to compile and publish on domestic violence incidents. The new categories specifically authorized under the bill are (1) the number of domestic violence calls alleging a violation of a domestic violence restraining order and (2) the number of arrests for a violation of a domestic violence order.

The provisions of this bill embody the content of Recommendation 20 of the report of the Assembly Task Force on Domestic Violence, issued in July, 1998.

FISCAL NOTE

ASSEMBLY, No. 2798

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

208th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 23, 1999

Assembly Bill No. 2798 of 1999 requires the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), with the assistance of the Attorney General and the various county prosecutors of the State, to expand the information compiled concerning domestic violence cases to include (1) information on the specific restraints ordered in each case and (2) the specific requirements imposed on the defendants, such as batterers' counseling and psychiatric evaluations. In addition, the AOC, with the assistance of the Attorney General and the various county prosecutors of the State, is required to develop and maintain a uniform form on which to record court orders issued in both the municipal courts and Superior Court. The purpose of these new forms is to facilitate the tracking of domestic violence cases through the court system.

The bill also expands the categories of data the State Police are required to compile and publish on domestic violence incidents. The new categories are (1) the number of domestic violence calls alleging a violation of a domestic violence restraining order and (2) the number of arrests for a violation of a domestic violence order.

The AOC states that the first year cost of preparing and printing the required forms would total \$30,000. Second and subsequent year cost for the printing of these forms would total \$20,000.

The Office of Legislative Services concurs.

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

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

CONTACT: Gene Herman
609-777-2600

RELEASE: June 9, 1999

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

S-1640, sponsored by the late Senator Wynona M. Lipman (D- Essex/Union) and Senator Garry J. Furnari (D-Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Assembly Members Rose Marie Heck (R-Bergen) and Nicholas Asselta (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland), increases the requirement for court and State Police reporting of statistical information concerning domestic violence incidents. The bill is one of several pieces of legislation that implement recommendations made by the Assembly Task Force on Domestic violence in a July, 1998 report. Currently, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and law enforcement officers are required to compile certain information with respect to domestic violence matters. The requirements generate statistics that allow for appropriate policy responses to domestic violence issues and provide for accountability on the part of the courts, prosecutors and police.

The AOC, with the assistance of the Attorney General and county prosecutors, is required to maintain a uniform record of all applications for relief in domestic violence matters. The record must include information about the number of criminal and civil complaints filed, the sex and relationship of the parties, and the relief sought and granted, including child custody and support. Under S-1640, the AOC must also record any specific restraints ordered by the court, along with any specific requirements or conditions imposed upon the defendant, such as counseling or psychiatric evaluations. The bill also requires the AOC to create and maintain uniform forms to record sentencing, bail conditions and dismissals in domestic violence matters. In addition, the bill expands the categories of data to be included in domestic violence offense reports which are prepared by law enforcement officers whenever they respond to domestic violence calls.

A-1989, sponsored by Assembly Members Richard H. Bagger (R- Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and Alan M. Augustine (R- Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union), establishes the Blue Star Memorial Highway Council in the Department of Transportation. The Blue Star Memorial Highway Council was created in 1948 to advise the State Highway Department (now the Department of Transportation) concerning the development of the landscaping, arboreal ornamentation, and incidental facilities of the Blue Star Memorial Highways. The legislation codifies the council within the permanent statutes of the state. The bill updates the council's membership to reflect current state department designations. Accordingly, two of the seven members of the council will be chosen from the Department of Transportation and the Department of Environmental Protection. Additionally, the member representing the Department of Health will be replaced by a member from the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs because the Blue Star Memorial Highway system was originally intended to serve as a living memorial to state veterans.