

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

Compiled by the NJ State Law Library

LAWS of 1999

CHAPTER: 146

NJSA:30:6-15.3 to 30:6-15.5

(Vision screening - blind & visually impaired)

BILL NO:A631 (Substituted for S1233)

SPONSOR(S):Roberts and Friscia

DATE INTRODUCED: Pre-filed

COMMITTEE:

*ASSEMBLY:*Senior Issues & Community Services; Appropriations

*SENATE:*Senior Citizens, Veterans' Affairs & Human Services

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE:

*ASSEMBLY:*May 18, 1998Re-enacted May 24, 1999

*SENATE:*December 10, 1998Re-enacted June 21, 1999

DATE OF APPROVAL:June 28, 1999

THE FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL: *Yes*1st Reprint

(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

A631

SPONSORS STATEMENT: *Yes*(Begins on page 2 of original bill)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY:Yes

February 23, 1998 (Senior Issues)

March 2, 1998 (Appropriations)

SENATE:*Yes*

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS: *No*

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: *No*

S1233

SPONSORS STATEMENT: *Yes*(Begins on page 2 of original bill)

Bill and Sponsor's Statement identical to A631

COMMITTEE STATEMENT:

ASSEMBLY: *No*

SENATE: *Yes*

Identical to Senate Statement for A631

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS:*No*

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: *No*

GOVERNOR'S ACTIONS

VETO MESSAGE: *Yes*

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: *Yes*

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

*To check for circulating copies contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library
(609) 278-2640 ext. 102 or refdesk@njstatelib.org*

REPORTS:*No*

HEARINGS:*No*

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:*No*

P.L. 1999, CHAPTER 146, *approved June 28, 1999*
Assembly, No. 631 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning the disposition of certain excess receipts in the
2 State's vending machine program and supplementing Title 30 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

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

7
8 1. [There is appropriated annually to the Commission for the Blind
9 and Visually Impaired in the Department of Human Services from
10 funds recovered from audits or other collection activities an amount
11 sufficient to offset the administrative costs of the State's vending
12 machine program and to reimburse vendors for the costs of any audits
13 and other collection activities, subject to the approval of the Director
14 of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the
15 Treasury. Receipts in excess of \$130,000, collected in any State fiscal
16 year, shall be appropriated annually to the Commission for the Blind
17 and Visually Impaired for the purpose of expanding vision screening
18 services and other prevention services, subject to the approval of the
19 Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting. The unexpended
20 balance of such receipts at the end of the State fiscal year on June 30,
21 1998 and any subsequent fiscal year shall be appropriated to expand
22 vision screening services and other prevention services.] The State's
23 vending machine program for State properties shall be administered by
24 the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired in the
25 Department of Human Services.

26 There is appropriated annually to the Commission for the Blind and
27 Visually Impaired the amount of revenue from the audits or other
28 collection activities of the State's vending machine program. From
29 these revenues, an annual amount shall be appropriated to provide
30 vision screening services and other prevention services within the
31 Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired based on available
32 funding and program need, subject to the approval of the Director of
33 the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the
34 Treasury. In each fiscal year, there shall be a maximum amount
35 allowable for costs within the Commission for the Blind and Visually
36 Impaired to administer the vending machine program and for audits or
37 other collection activities. The maximum amount of administrative
38 costs permitted shall be no more than 15% of the revenue collected in

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 Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations
March 4, 1999.

1 the respective fiscal year, and in no case shall exceed \$130,000. This
2 amount shall also be subject to the approval of the Director of the
3 Division of Budget and Accounting.¹

4
5 ¹2. At the discretion of the Commissioner of Human Services,
6 revenues in excess of the amounts budgeted to expand vision screening
7 services and other prevention services and associated administrative
8 costs may be appropriated:

9 a. to return up to 25% of the revenue received from respective
10 Department of Human Services facilities to the facilities to be used for
11 client welfare programs when not needed for vision screening and
12 other prevention services;

13 b. to provide liability insurance for clients of the Commission for
14 the Blind and Visually Impaired who are operators of vending facilities
15 in the commission's Business Enterprise Program; and

16 c. to expand vision screening and other prevention services.¹

17
18 ¹3. The unexpended balance of vending machine program receipts
19 at the end of the State fiscal year on June 30, 1999 and any subsequent
20 fiscal year shall be appropriated to expand vision screening services
21 and other prevention services.¹

22
23 ¹[2.] 4.¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

24
25
26
27
28 Expands vision screening services and other prevention services
29 offered by the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

ASSEMBLY, No. 631

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1998 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOSEPH J. ROBERTS, JR.

District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)

Assemblywoman ARLINE M. FRISCIA

District 19 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Weinberg

SYNOPSIS

Expands vision screening services and other prevention services offered by the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/24/1998)

A631 ROBERTS, FRISCIA

2

1 AN ACT concerning the disposition of certain excess receipts in the
2 State's vending machine program and supplementing Title 30 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. There is appropriated annually to the Commission for the Blind
9 and Visually Impaired in the Department of Human Services from
10 funds recovered from audits or other collection activities an amount
11 sufficient to offset the administrative costs of the State's vending
12 machine program and to reimburse vendors for the costs of any audits
13 and other collection activities, subject to the approval of the Director
14 of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the
15 Treasury. Receipts in excess of \$130,000, collected in any State fiscal
16 year, shall be appropriated annually to the Commission for the Blind
17 and Visually Impaired for the purpose of expanding vision screening
18 services and other prevention services, subject to the approval of the
19 Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting. The unexpended
20 balance of such receipts at the end of the State fiscal year on June 30,
21 1997 and any subsequent fiscal year shall be appropriated to expand
22 vision screening services and other prevention services.

23

24 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

25

26

27

STATEMENT

28

29 This bill codifies budget language regarding the use of certain
30 excess receipts realized by the Commission for the Blind and Visually
31 Impaired to expand vision screening services and other prevention
32 services. Such language has been included in the annual
33 appropriations act for several years and it is appropriate that this
34 language be incorporated into permanent law.

ASSEMBLY SENIOR ISSUES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 631

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 1998

The Assembly Senior Issues and Community Services Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 631.

This bill codifies budget language regarding the use of certain excess receipts realized by the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to expand vision screening services and other prevention services. Such language has been included in the annual appropriations act for several years and it is appropriate that this language be incorporated into permanent law.

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.

ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 631

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 2, 1998

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 631.

Assembly Bill No. 631 codifies budget language regarding the use of certain excess receipts realized by the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to expand vision screening services and other prevention services. Such language has been included in the annual appropriations act for several years and it is appropriate that this language be incorporated into permanent law.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There would be no fiscal impact on the General Fund. The Commission generates approximately \$600,000 annually from audits and collection programs in the Department of Human Services. Of the total amount, budget language authorizes the Commission to use \$130,000 for administrative expenses and receipts in excess of the \$130,000, or \$475,000, for the expansion of vision screening services and other prevention services.

SENATE SENIOR CITIZENS, VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 631

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 19, 1998

The Senate Senior Citizens, Veterans' Affairs and Human Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 631.

This bill codifies budget language regarding the use of certain excess receipts realized by the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to expand vision screening services and other prevention services.

Under the provisions of the bill, funds recovered from audits or other collection activities, in an amount sufficient to offset the administrative costs of the State's vending machine program and to reimburse vendors for the costs of any audits and other collection activities, are to be appropriated to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Receipts in excess of \$130,000, collected in any fiscal year, shall be appropriated annually to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired for the purpose of expanding vision screening services and other prevention services, subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting. The unexpended balance of such receipts at the end of each fiscal year shall be appropriated to expand vision screening services and other prevention services.

The Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired generates approximately \$600,000 annually from audits and collection programs in the Department of Human Services. Under the bill's provisions, receipts in excess of the \$130,000 for administrative expenses, or \$475,000, are authorized to be used for the expansion of vision screening and other prevention services.

This provision has been included in the annual appropriations act for several years and it is appropriate that this budget language be incorporated into permanent law.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1233 (Ciesla/Matheussen) which the committee also reported on this date.

SENATE, No. 1233

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 25, 1998

Sponsored by:

Senator ANDREW R. CIESLA

District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)

Senator JOHN J. MATHEUSSEN

District 4 (Camden and Gloucester)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Rice

SYNOPSIS

Expands vision screening services and other prevention services offered by the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/20/1998)

1 AN ACT concerning the disposition of certain excess receipts in the
2 State's vending machine program and supplementing Title 30 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

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

7
8 1. There is appropriated annually to the Commission for the Blind
9 and Visually Impaired in the Department of Human Services from
10 funds recovered from audits or other collection activities an amount
11 sufficient to offset the administrative costs of the State's vending
12 machine program and to reimburse vendors for the costs of any audits
13 and other collection activities, subject to the approval of the Director
14 of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the
15 Treasury. Receipts in excess of \$130,000, collected in any State fiscal
16 year, shall be appropriated annually to the Commission for the Blind
17 and Visually Impaired for the purpose of expanding vision screening
18 services and other prevention services, subject to the approval of the
19 Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting. The unexpended
20 balance of such receipts at the end of the State fiscal year on June 30,
21 1998 and any subsequent fiscal year shall be appropriated to expand
22 vision screening services and other prevention services.

23

24 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

25

26

27

STATEMENT

28

29 This bill codifies budget language regarding the use of certain
30 excess receipts realized by the Commission for the Blind and Visually
31 Impaired to expand vision screening services and other prevention
32 services. Such language has been included in the annual
33 appropriations act for several years and it is appropriate that this
34 language be incorporated into permanent law.

SENATE SENIOR CITIZENS, VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1233

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 19, 1998

The Senate Senior Citizens, Veterans' Affairs and Human Services Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1233.

This bill codifies budget language regarding the use of certain excess receipts realized by the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to expand vision screening services and other prevention services.

Under the provisions of the bill, funds recovered from audits or other collection activities, in an amount sufficient to offset the administrative costs of the State's vending machine program and to reimburse vendors for the costs of any audits and other collection activities, are to be appropriated to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Receipts in excess of \$130,000, collected in any fiscal year, shall be appropriated annually to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired for the purpose of expanding vision screening services and other prevention services, subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting. The unexpended balance of such receipts at the end of each fiscal year shall be appropriated to expand vision screening services and other prevention services.

The Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired generates approximately \$600,000 annually from audits and collection programs in the Department of Human Services. Under the bill's provisions, receipts in excess of the \$130,000 for administrative expenses, or \$475,000, are authorized to be used for the expansion of vision screening and other prevention services.

This provision has been included in the annual appropriations act for several years and it is appropriate that this budget language be incorporated into permanent law.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 631 (Roberts/Friscia) which the committee also reported on this date.

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 631

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 631 with my recommendations for reconsideration.

SUMMARY OF BILL

This bill codifies budget language which designates a portion of revenue derived from certain vending machine sales under contract with the State to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired in the Department of Human Services to expand vision screening and other prevention services. Such language has been included in the annual appropriations act since 1994.

B. RECOMMENDED ACTION

I commend the sponsors of this legislation for recognizing the important work of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired and for ensuring a permanent funding source for the continuation and expansion of Project Prevention, the Commission's vision screening and other prevention services program.

I have been advised that prior to 1994, certain Department of Human Services institutions, including psychiatric hospitals and centers for the developmentally disabled, had received the revenue generated from vending machine sales under contract with the State. Since 1994, this revenue has been redirected through the annual appropriations act to the fund the activities of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired, benefiting the Commission's activities but effectively eliminating a revenue source for certain of the Department's institutions. This loss of funds has resulted in a disincentive to increase vending sales and an overall decrease in revenue receipts for Project Prevention.

To provide maximum flexibility to the Commission and to restore part of the financial support for institutional clients' recreational and extra-curricular activities, I propose a revenue sharing approach which would grant the Commissioner of Human Services discretionary authority to share a portion of the vending sales with certain of the Department's institutions. The Commissioner would exercise such authority only when sufficient funds have been collected in a particular year to support Project Prevention. I also propose to provide liability insurance to the blind and visually impaired operators of the Commission's Business Enterprise Program.

Therefore, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 631 and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 2, Section 1, Lines 8-22:

After "1." delete in its entirety and insert "The State's vending machine program for State properties shall be administered by the New Jersey Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired in the Department of Human Services.

There is appropriated annually to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired the amount of revenue from the audits or other collection activities of the State's vending machine program. From these revenues, an annual amount shall be appropriated to provide vision screening services and other prevention services within the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired based on available funding and program need, subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting in the Department of the Treasury. In each fiscal year, there shall be a maximum amount allowable for costs within the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to administer the vending machine program and for audits or other collection activities. The maximum amount of administrative costs permitted shall be no more than 15% of the revenue collected in the respective fiscal year, and in no case shall exceed \$130,000. This amount shall also be subject to the approval of the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting."

Page 2, Section 2, Line 24:

Insert new sections as follows: "2. At the discretion of the Commissioner of Human Services, revenues in excess of the amounts budgeted to expand vision screening services and other prevention services and associated administrative costs may be appropriated: a. to return up to 25% of the revenue received from respective Department of Human Services facilities to the facilities to be used for client welfare programs when not needed for vision screening and other prevention services; b. to provide liability insurance for clients of the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired who are operators of vending facilities in the commission's Business Enterprise Program; and c. to expand vision screening and other

prevention services.

3. The unexpended balance of vending machine program receipts at the end of the State fiscal year on June 30, 1999 and any subsequent fiscal year shall be appropriated to expand vision screening services and other prevention services.”

Page 2, Section 2, Line 24:

Delete “2.” and insert “4.”

Respectfully,

/s/ Christine Todd Whitman
Governor

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ John J. Farmer, Jr.

Chief Counsel to the Governor

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Wendi Patella
609-777-2600

RELEASE: June 28, 1999

Governor Whitman Signs Bills into Law

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed 12 bills into law, including legislation to increase parental involvement in a minor's decision to have an abortion, to allow towns to regulate or prohibit nudity on state-owned land within their borders, and to fund the state's contribution toward a memorial to recognize World War II veterans.

On the parental notification bill, Gov. Whitman said, "This legislation strikes a common-sense balance that recognizes the rights of parents to know when a medical procedure will be performed on their minor children, while preserving a young woman's legal right to choose whether or not to have an abortion."

A-44, sponsored by Assembly Members Paul DiGaetano (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Joseph Doria (D-Hudson) and Senators Ronald Rice (D-Essex) and Joseph Palaia (R-Monmouth), appropriates \$14.8 million to the Department of Community Affairs to demolish and dispose of unsafe buildings. The money would be used as loans to 17 municipalities to demolish buildings in urban and rural areas. The loans were awarded pursuant to the "Urban and Rural Centers Unsafe Buildings Demolition Bond Act." Loans will be granted to Camden, Passaic, Elizabeth, Bridgeton, Jersey City, Asbury Park, Bayonne, East Orange, Hampton, Long Branch, Orange, Paterson, Penns Grove, Perth Amboy, Pleasantville, Union City, and Vineland.

ACS for A-527/S-813, sponsored by Assembly Members John E. Rooney (R-Bergen) and Marion Crecco (R-Essex/Passaic), seeks to increase parental involvement in a minor's decision to have an abortion. Specifically, the bill requires a physician, prior to performing an abortion upon a female under the age of 18, to notify a parent at least 48 hours prior to the procedure, subject to certain exemptions. If the parent has no custodial rights or if there is no parent with care and control, the bill provides for notification of a foster parent, guardian or person standing in loco parentis.

The bill establishes an exception to the notification requirement if, in the attending physician's good faith clinical judgment, a medical emergency exists. The bill also allows a pregnant minor to petition a judge of the Superior Court for a judicial order waiving the notification requirement. A judge must waive the notification requirement if he finds, by clear and convincing evidence, that either the pregnant minor is mature enough to decide whether to have an abortion; the notification of the parent is not in the best interests of the minor; or there is evidence of physical, sexual or emotional abuse by the parent, guardian or legal custodian.

A-631, sponsored by Assembly Members Joseph Roberts (D-Camden/Gloucester) and Arline Friscia (D-Middlesex), designates a portion of the revenue collected from vending machine sales under contract

with the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to be used for vision screening and prevention services. Since 1994, the vending machine revenue has been redirected through the appropriations act, which resulted in a disincentive to increase sales. The revenue sharing program grants the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services the authority to share a portion of the sales with department institutions only when enough funds have been collected to support Project Prevention.

S-1698, sponsored by Senators William L. Gormley (R-Atlantic) and Wayne R. Bryant (D-Camden/Gloucester) and Assembly Member James W. Holzapfel (R-Monmouth/ Ocean), enhances the flexibility of the State Parole Board. The legislation increases the membership of the board from nine members to eleven and adds a third adult panel on prison sentences which will enable the board to conduct an estimated 288 additional panel hearings each month.

The legislation also expands the ability of an alternate board member to assume the duties of an associate member. Currently, the board has an alternate member who can assume the duties of an associate member only when the associate is removed, incapacitated or assumes the duties of the chairman. The legislation will allow an alternate member to step in for an associate member when the member is absent or otherwise unable to perform his or her duties, or assumes the duties of the chairman. Finally, the bill expands the powers of the chairman to temporarily reassign an associate member appointed to a panel on juvenile commitments to a panel on adult sentences. Currently, the chairman can only reassign members appointed to a panel on adult sentences.

S-1709/A-3115, sponsored by Senator Robert Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Assembly Members Carol J. Murphy (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Nicholas Felice (R-Bergen/Passaic), clarifies that the corporation business tax benefit transfer program applies only to emerging technology and biotechnology companies in this state. As currently written, the bill could allow large "Fortune 500" companies to obtain CBT tax credits.

S-1744/A-2886, sponsored by Senators Norman M. Robertson (R-Essex/Passaic) and Louis Bassano (R-Essex/Union) and Assembly Members Kenneth LeFevre (R-Atlantic) and Joseph Azzolina (R-Middlesex and Monmouth), makes a supplemental appropriation of \$580,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs for a grant to the World War II Memorial Fund. The fund is to be used to construct and maintain the first national memorial dedicated to all who served in the armed forces and the merchant marines during World War II.

Former Senator Bob Dole is leading efforts to raise \$100 million toward the memorial, which is to be built on the Mall in Washington, D.C. States have been asked to make donations to the fund, suggested at \$1 for each resident who served in WWII. The \$580,000 supplemental appropriation represents New Jersey's contribution for its approximately 580,000 veterans who served in the war. Of those 580,000 veterans, it is estimated that approximately 200,000 World War II veterans are still living in the state.

S-1912, sponsored by Senator James S. Cafiero and Assembly Members John C. Gibson and Nicholas Asselta (all R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland), authorizes municipalities to regulate or prohibit nudity on any state-owned land.

S-1985, sponsored by Senators William E. Schluter (R-Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer) and Shirley K. Turner (D-Mercer) and Assembly Members Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-Mercer) and Reed Gusciora (D-Mercer), authorizes the Department of the Treasury to sell as surplus real property all of the state's interest in the Lafayette Yard property in Trenton to the City of Trenton. The terms and conditions of the sale must be approved by the State House Commission. The purpose of the bill is to allow the City of Trenton to build a hotel on the site. The sale of the Lafayette Yard and the City of Trenton Hotel and Conference Center will be financed by a \$5 million loan from the state.

S-1986, sponsored by Senators William E. Schluter (R-Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer) and Shirley K. Turner (D-Mercer) and Assembly Members Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-Mercer) and Reed Gusciora (D-Mercer), makes a supplemental appropriation of \$5 million from the Fiscal Year 1999 Appropriations Act to the Department of the Treasury to make a loan to the City of Trenton to construct a hotel/conference center and parking garage on the Lafayette Yard site next to the War Memorial in Trenton.

S-2009, sponsored by Senator Gerald Cardinale (R-Bergen) and Assembly Member Claire M. Farragher (R-Monmouth), revises the manner in which the Department of Banking and Insurance (DBI) may assess the insurance industry for the cost of operations of the Division of Insurance and the Office of Insurance Fraud Prosecutor (OIP). The present amount of assessment is approximately \$41 million per year. The assessment is calculated by adding the previous year's spending by the DBI and OIP to the percentage increases (if any) in net written premiums by the insurance industry. Thus, the division must calculate the premium increase for the insurance industry from the previous calendar year and then set its budget for the following year. The assessment growth is limited to the percentage growth in net written premiums from the prior calendar year. Annual statements containing net written premium information are not due from the companies until March following the close of the calendar year and this information is not compiled until May. Consequently, the maximum assessment for the preceding fiscal year is not known until May of the current year, which leaves inadequate time to adjust spending.

To rectify these problems, the bill revises the fiscal cap by removing the present limitation that the assessment may not increase, as a percentage, by more than the percentage increase in net written premiums received by all companies for the prior calendar year. Instead, it sets the cap at 0.20 percent of the combined net written premiums received during the prior calendar year. The bill applies the revised cap to the 1999 fiscal year and every succeeding fiscal year. The cap will now have a fixed ceiling, instead of a variable ceiling.

ACS for A-2738 and A-2343, sponsored by Assembly Members Alex DeCroce (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic), Anthony Impreveduto (D-Bergen/Hudson), Francis Bodine (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Camden) and Joseph Charles (D-Hudson) and Senators Andrew Ciesla (R-Monmouth/Ocean) and Walter Kavanaugh (R-Morris/Somerset), increases from \$700 million to \$900 million the amount of debt that the State Transportation Trust Fund Authority may incur. The bill also increases the same amount that may be appropriated for transportation projects. Any savings realized by refinancing debt must be used for funding transportation projects.

ACS for A-3269, sponsored by Assembly Members Rose Marie Heck (R-Bergen), Joel M. Weingarten (D-Bergen) and Loretta Weinberg (D-Bergen), authorizes the Division of Motor Vehicles

(DMV) to process motor vehicle transactions submitted through any electronic or digital means, including by the Internet or telephone. Individuals will continue to have the option of conducting business with DMV in person or through the mail.