



**VETO MESSAGE:**

Yes

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

Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**HEARINGS:**

No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:**

No

P.L. 1999, CHAPTER 286, *approved December 20, 1999*  
Assembly, No. 2312 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning stabilized aid for public school districts and  
2 amending P.L.1996, c.138.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 10 of P.L.1996, c.138 (C.18A:7F-10) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 10. a. Notwithstanding any other provision of this act to the  
10 contrary, the total stabilized aid for each district shall not be increased  
11 by more than the district's stabilization aid growth limit. In the event  
12 that total stabilized aid exceeds the prebudget year total by a rate  
13 greater than the stabilization aid growth limit, the commissioner shall  
14 adjust the components of total stabilized aid so that they total exactly  
15 the prebudget year total increased by the stabilization aid growth limit.  
16 For the 1997-98 school year, the prebudget year total shall include  
17 foundation aid, transition aid, categorical aids for special education,  
18 bilingual education and county vocational education, and  
19 transportation aid paid for the 1996-97 school year. For the 1998-99  
20 school year and thereafter, the prebudget year total shall be the total  
21 for the same aid categories as included in total stabilized aid plus any  
22 stabilization aid the district has received pursuant to subsection b. of  
23 this section, as paid in the prebudget years plus <sup>1</sup>, in the 1998-99  
24 school year, <sup>1</sup> any aid received by the district in the 1997-98 school  
25 year for the restoration of administrative penalties pursuant to the  
26 provisions of section 1 of P.L.1997, c.232 (C.18A:7F-5.1). <sup>1</sup>The  
27 restoration of administrative penalties for this purpose shall not affect  
28 the calculation of the T & E budget pursuant to section 13 of  
29 P.L.1996, c.138 (C.18A:7F-13).<sup>1</sup> For the 1997-98 and 1998-99  
30 school years, total stabilized aid shall include core curriculum  
31 standards aid, categorical aids for special education programs,  
32 bilingual education programs, and county vocational programs,  
33 transportation aid, and aid for adult and postsecondary programs  
34 calculated pursuant to sections 15, 19, 20, 21, 25, and 28 of this act.  
35 For the 1999-2000 school year and thereafter, total stabilized aid shall  
36 include core curriculum standards aid, supplemental core curriculum  
37 standards aid, distance learning network aid, categorical aids for  
38 special education programs, bilingual education programs, county  
39 vocational programs, early childhood program aid, demonstrably

**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:**

**<sup>1</sup> Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations  
November 15, 1999.**

1 effective program aid, instructional supplement aid, transportation aid,  
2 aid for adult and postsecondary programs, and academic achievement  
3 rewards calculated pursuant to sections 15 through 22, 25, 28 and 29  
4 of this act.

5 Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, the  
6 commissioner shall ensure that for any district with a stabilization  
7 reduction in 1997-98 that by the 1999-2000 school year and thereafter,  
8 the total stabilized aid for each school district reflects the actual pupil  
9 counts of the district.

10 b. Notwithstanding any other provision of this act to the contrary,  
11 the total of a district's stabilization aid, core curriculum standards aid,  
12 supplemental core curriculum standards aid, distance learning network  
13 aid, categorical aids for special education programs, bilingual  
14 education programs, county vocational programs, early childhood  
15 program aid, demonstrably effective program aid, transportation aid,  
16 aid for adult and postsecondary programs, and academic achievement  
17 rewards calculated pursuant to subsection a. of this section and  
18 sections 15 through 17, subsection a. of section 18, 19 through 22,  
19 25, 28 and 29 of this act, shall not be decreased by more than 10%  
20 below the amounts paid for these categories in the prebudget year. In  
21 the event that the sum of the formula entitlements calculated pursuant  
22 to those sections is less than 90% of the prebudget total, stabilization  
23 aid shall be paid in the amount of the difference between 90% of the  
24 prebudget year total and the sum of those entitlements. For the  
25 1997-98 school year, the prebudget year total shall include foundation  
26 aid, transition aid, aid for at-risk pupils, technology aid and categorical  
27 aids for special education, bilingual education and county vocational  
28 education, and transportation aid.

29 c. For the 1997-98 school year, supplemental stabilization aid shall  
30 be paid to any district in which:

31 (1) the total aid payable for the categories listed in subsection b. of  
32 this section is less than the prebudget year total for the same aids; and

33 (2) resident enrollment projected for October 1997 exceeds 99  
34 percent of the resident enrollment for October 1991 or resident  
35 enrollment projected for October 1997 is less than resident enrollment  
36 for October 1991 by 35 or fewer pupils or the prebudget year  
37 equalized tax rate exceeded the Statewide average equalized school  
38 tax rate by 10% or more.

39 An eligible district shall be aided in the amount of its total aid  
40 decline, after offset by any stabilization aid provided pursuant to  
41 subsection b. of this section, or \$4,000,000, whichever is less. The  
42 commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of the  
43 Department of Community Affairs and the Director of the Division of  
44 Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs,  
45 shall examine the fiscal ability of districts eligible for supplemental  
46 stabilization aid to absorb aid losses and shall make recommendations

1 to the Legislature and the Governor regarding the continuation of  
2 supplemental stabilization aid. The commissioner shall not implement  
3 any of those recommendations until the recommendations are enacted  
4 into law.

5 d. Additional supplemental stabilization aid of \$500,000 per district  
6 shall be disbursed to any district which meets all of the following  
7 criteria:

8 (1) the district's projected resident enrollment for the 1997-98  
9 school year exceeds 10,000 pupils;

10 (2) the district's 1996-97 net budget is less than the sum of its  
11 maximum T&E budget calculated pursuant to section 13 of this act  
12 and early childhood program aid, demonstrably effective program aid,  
13 instructional supplement aid, transportation aid, and categorical  
14 program aid received pursuant to sections 19 through 22, 28, and 29  
15 of this act;

16 (3) the district's total aid payable for the categories listed in  
17 subsection b. of this section exceeds the prebudget year total for the  
18 same aids by no more than 10%;

19 (4) the district's original State aid notice for 1996-97 was not  
20 reduced pursuant to P.L.1995, c.236 (C.18A:7E-6 et seq.);

21 (5) the district's core curriculum standards aid as a percentage of  
22 its T&E budget is less than 50%; and

23 (6) the district was certified as of November 30, 1996.

24 e. For the 1997-98 school year, each district which had pupils  
25 placed in a county special services school district on October 15, 1995  
26 shall receive additional supplemental stabilization aid as follows:

27 (1) when the sum of the district's total aid payable for the  
28 categories listed in subsection b. of this section, aid payable pursuant  
29 to subsections c. and d. of this section, and aid payable pursuant to  
30 subsection c. of section 18 of this act exceeds the prebudget year total  
31 for the same aids pursuant to subsection b. of this section, the district  
32 shall receive an amount equal to the excess of the State aid generated  
33 by such placements in the county special services school district in  
34 1996-97 over the excess calculated pursuant to this paragraph; or

35 (2) when the district's prebudget year aid pursuant to subsection b.  
36 of this section equals or exceeds the sum of the total aid payable for  
37 the categories listed in subsection b. of this section, aid payable  
38 pursuant to subsections c. and d. of this section, and aid payable  
39 pursuant to subsection c. of section 18 of this act, the district shall  
40 receive an amount equal to the State aid generated by such placements  
41 in the county special services school district in 1996-97.

42 f. Supplemental school tax reduction aid shall be paid to any  
43 district which meets the following criteria:

44 (1) the district's 1996-97 net budget per pupil is less than 115% of  
45 the State average net budget per pupil;

46 (2) the district's 1996-97 equalized tax rate of the general fund is

1 greater than 130% of the Statewide average equalized school tax rate;  
2 (3) the district does not receive any supplemental core curriculum  
3 standards aid; and

4 (4) the district is not included within the Department of  
5 Education's district factor groups I or J based on the 1990 federal  
6 census data.

7 Each district which is determined to be eligible to receive aid  
8 pursuant to this subsection shall receive aid according to the following  
9 formula:

10

11  $.75 \times (\text{ESTR} - 1.30 \times \text{STESTR}) \times \text{EVAL}$

12

13 where

14

15 ESTR is the district's equalized tax rate of the general fund for the  
16 1996-97 school year;

17

18 STESTR is the Statewide average equalized school tax rate for the  
19 1996-97 school year; and

20

21 EVAL is the district October 1995 equalized valuation.

22

23 No district shall receive more than \$300,000 pursuant to this  
24 subsection.

25 g. Additional supplemental stabilization aid shall be paid to any  
26 district which is located in a municipality which has a population  
27 composed of more than 45% senior citizens age 65 or older according  
28 to the most recent federal decennial census. The aid shall equal \$200  
29 multiplied by the district's resident enrollment projected for October  
30 1997.

31 h. For the 1997-98 school year, any county vocational school  
32 district which is not eligible for supplemental stabilization aid pursuant  
33 to subsection c. of this section but which meets the requirements of  
34 paragraph (1) of that subsection and in which the secondary resident  
35 enrollment for October 1996 exceeds the resident enrollment  
36 projected for October 1997 shall be entitled to supplemental  
37 stabilization aid after offset by any aid received by the district pursuant  
38 to subsections b., d., e., f., and g. of this section and subsection c. of  
39 section 18 of P.L.1996, c.138 (C.18A:7F-18), or \$500,000, whichever  
40 is less. A recommendation concerning the continuation of aid awarded  
41 pursuant to this subsection shall be made by the commissioner  
42 pursuant to the provisions of subsection c. of this section.

43 i. Any stabilization aid, supplemental stabilization aid, and  
44 supplemental school tax reduction aid paid pursuant to this section  
45 shall be applied toward the required local share of the school district  
46 or county vocational school district which receives the aid; except that

1 for the 1997-98 school year, any aid received by a district pursuant to  
2 subsection h. of this section shall be an adjustment to the district's  
3 spending growth limitation.

4 (cf: P.L.1997, c.232, s.2)

5

6 2. (New section) Any additional State aid received by a district in  
7 the 1998-99 school year pursuant to the provisions of P.L. , c. (C. )  
8 (now pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall be an adjustment  
9 to the district's spending growth limitation for the 1998-99 school  
10 year.

11

12 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

13

14

15

16

17 Provides that administrative penalty funds returned to school districts  
18 in the 1997-98 school year shall be included in each district's  
19 prebudget year total for the purpose of calculating stabilized aid in  
20 1998-99.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2312

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 27, 1998

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ROSE MARIE HECK**

**District 38 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman DAVID W. WOLFE**

**District 10 (Monmouth and Ocean)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

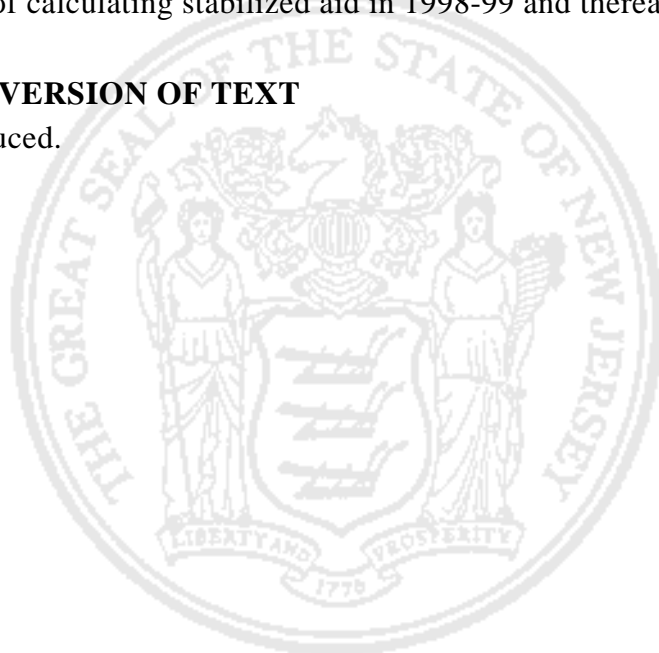
**Assemblymen Holzapfel, Talarico, Weingarten, Conaway, Conners,  
Corodemus, Senators Martin and Allen**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides that administrative penalty funds returned to school districts in the 1997-98 school year shall be included in each district's prebudget year total for the purpose of calculating stabilized aid in 1998-99 and thereafter.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/1/1999)**



A2312 HECK, WOLFE

2

1 AN ACT concerning stabilized aid for public school districts and  
2 amending P.L.1996, c.138.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 10 of P.L.1996, c.138 (C.18A:7F-10) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 10. a. Notwithstanding any other provision of this act to the  
10 contrary, the total stabilized aid for each district shall not be increased  
11 by more than the district's stabilization aid growth limit. In the event  
12 that total stabilized aid exceeds the prebudget year total by a rate  
13 greater than the stabilization aid growth limit, the commissioner shall  
14 adjust the components of total stabilized aid so that they total exactly  
15 the prebudget year total increased by the stabilization aid growth limit.  
16 For the 1997-98 school year, the prebudget year total shall include  
17 foundation aid, transition aid, categorical aids for special education,  
18 bilingual education and county vocational education, and  
19 transportation aid paid for the 1996-97 school year. For the 1998-99  
20 school year and thereafter, the prebudget year total shall be the total  
21 for the same aid categories as included in total stabilized aid plus any  
22 stabilization aid the district has received pursuant to subsection b. of  
23 this section, as paid in the prebudget years plus any aid received by  
24 the district in the 1997-98 school year for the restoration of  
25 administrative penalties pursuant to the provisions of section 1 of  
26 P.L.1997, c.232 (C.18A:7F-5.1). For the 1997-98 and 1998-99 school  
27 years, total stabilized aid shall include core curriculum standards aid,  
28 categorical aids for special education programs, bilingual education  
29 programs, and county vocational programs, transportation aid, and aid  
30 for adult and postsecondary programs calculated pursuant to sections  
31 15, 19, 20, 21, 25, and 28 of this act. For the 1999-2000 school year  
32 and thereafter, total stabilized aid shall include core curriculum  
33 standards aid, supplemental core curriculum standards aid, distance  
34 learning network aid, categorical aids for special education programs,  
35 bilingual education programs, county vocational programs, early  
36 childhood program aid, demonstrably effective program aid,  
37 instructional supplement aid, transportation aid, aid for adult and  
38 postsecondary programs, and academic achievement rewards  
39 calculated pursuant to sections 15 through 22, 25, 28 and 29 of this  
40 act.

41 Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, the  
42 commissioner shall ensure that for any district with a stabilization  
43 reduction in 1997-98 that by the 1999-2000 school year and thereafter,

**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 the total stabilized aid for each school district reflects the actual pupil  
2 counts of the district.

3 b. Notwithstanding any other provision of this act to the contrary,  
4 the total of a district's stabilization aid, core curriculum standards aid,  
5 supplemental core curriculum standards aid, distance learning network  
6 aid, categorical aids for special education programs, bilingual  
7 education programs, county vocational programs, early childhood  
8 program aid, demonstrably effective program aid, transportation aid,  
9 aid for adult and postsecondary programs, and academic achievement  
10 rewards calculated pursuant to subsection a. of this section and  
11 sections 15 through 17, subsection a. of section 18, 19 through 22,  
12 25, 28 and 29 of this act, shall not be decreased by more than 10%  
13 below the amounts paid for these categories in the prebudget year. In  
14 the event that the sum of the formula entitlements calculated pursuant  
15 to those sections is less than 90% of the prebudget total, stabilization  
16 aid shall be paid in the amount of the difference between 90% of the  
17 prebudget year total and the sum of those entitlements. For the  
18 1997-98 school year, the prebudget year total shall include foundation  
19 aid, transition aid, aid for at-risk pupils, technology aid and categorical  
20 aids for special education, bilingual education and county vocational  
21 education, and transportation aid.

22 c. For the 1997-98 school year, supplemental stabilization aid shall  
23 be paid to any district in which:

24 (1) the total aid payable for the categories listed in subsection b. of  
25 this section is less than the prebudget year total for the same aids; and

26 (2) resident enrollment projected for October 1997 exceeds 99  
27 percent of the resident enrollment for October 1991 or resident  
28 enrollment projected for October 1997 is less than resident enrollment  
29 for October 1991 by 35 or fewer pupils or the prebudget year  
30 equalized tax rate exceeded the Statewide average equalized school  
31 tax rate by 10% or more.

32 An eligible district shall be aided in the amount of its total aid  
33 decline, after offset by any stabilization aid provided pursuant to  
34 subsection b. of this section, or \$4,000,000, whichever is less. The  
35 commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of the  
36 Department of Community Affairs and the Director of the Division of  
37 Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs,  
38 shall examine the fiscal ability of districts eligible for supplemental  
39 stabilization aid to absorb aid losses and shall make recommendations  
40 to the Legislature and the Governor regarding the continuation of  
41 supplemental stabilization aid. The commissioner shall not implement  
42 any of those recommendations until the recommendations are enacted  
43 into law.

44 d. Additional supplemental stabilization aid of \$500,000 per district  
45 shall be disbursed to any district which meets all of the following  
46 criteria:

- 1 (1) the district's projected resident enrollment for the 1997-98
- 2 school year exceeds 10,000 pupils;
- 3 (2) the district's 1996-97 net budget is less than the sum of its
- 4 maximum T&E budget calculated pursuant to section 13 of this act
- 5 and early childhood program aid, demonstrably effective program aid,
- 6 instructional supplement aid, transportation aid, and categorical
- 7 program aid received pursuant to sections 19 through 22, 28, and 29
- 8 of this act;
- 9 (3) the district's total aid payable for the categories listed in
- 10 subsection b. of this section exceeds the prebudget year total for the
- 11 same aids by no more than 10%;
- 12 (4) the district's original State aid notice for 1996-97 was not
- 13 reduced pursuant to P.L.1995, c.236 (C.18A:7E-6 et seq.);
- 14 (5) the district's core curriculum standards aid as a percentage of
- 15 its T&E budget is less than 50%; and
- 16 (6) the district was certified as of November 30, 1996.
- 17 e. For the 1997-98 school year, each district which had pupils
- 18 placed in a county special services school district on October 15, 1995
- 19 shall receive additional supplemental stabilization aid as follows:
- 20 (1) when the sum of the district's total aid payable for the
- 21 categories listed in subsection b. of this section, aid payable pursuant
- 22 to subsections c. and d. of this section, and aid payable pursuant to
- 23 subsection c. of section 18 of this act exceeds the prebudget year total
- 24 for the same aids pursuant to subsection b. of this section, the district
- 25 shall receive an amount equal to the excess of the State aid generated
- 26 by such placements in the county special services school district in
- 27 1996-97 over the excess calculated pursuant to this paragraph; or
- 28 (2) when the district's prebudget year aid pursuant to subsection b.
- 29 of this section equals or exceeds the sum of the total aid payable for
- 30 the categories listed in subsection b. of this section, aid payable
- 31 pursuant to subsections c. and d. of this section, and aid payable
- 32 pursuant to subsection c. of section 18 of this act, the district shall
- 33 receive an amount equal to the State aid generated by such placements
- 34 in the county special services school district in 1996-97.
- 35 f. Supplemental school tax reduction aid shall be paid to any
- 36 district which meets the following criteria:
- 37 (1) the district's 1996-97 net budget per pupil is less than 115% of
- 38 the State average net budget per pupil;
- 39 (2) the district's 1996-97 equalized tax rate of the general fund is
- 40 greater than 130% of the Statewide average equalized school tax rate;
- 41 (3) the district does not receive any supplemental core curriculum
- 42 standards aid; and
- 43 (4) the district is not included within the Department of
- 44 Education's district factor groups I or J based on the 1990 federal
- 45 census data.
- 46 Each district which is determined to be eligible to receive aid

1 pursuant to this subsection shall receive aid according to the following  
2 formula:

3

4  $.75 \times (\text{ESTR} - 1.30 \times \text{STESTR}) \times \text{EVAL}$

5

6 where

7

8 ESTR is the district's equalized tax rate of the general fund for the  
9 1996-97 school year;

10

11 STESTR is the Statewide average equalized school tax rate for the  
12 1996-97 school year; and

13

14 EVAL is the district October 1995 equalized valuation.

15

16 No district shall receive more than \$300,000 pursuant to this  
17 subsection.

18 g. Additional supplemental stabilization aid shall be paid to any  
19 district which is located in a municipality which has a population  
20 composed of more than 45% senior citizens age 65 or older according  
21 to the most recent federal decennial census. The aid shall equal \$200  
22 multiplied by the district's resident enrollment projected for October  
23 1997.

24 h. For the 1997-98 school year, any county vocational school  
25 district which is not eligible for supplemental stabilization aid pursuant  
26 to subsection c. of this section but which meets the requirements of  
27 paragraph (1) of that subsection and in which the secondary resident  
28 enrollment for October 1996 exceeds the resident enrollment  
29 projected for October 1997 shall be entitled to supplemental  
30 stabilization aid after offset by any aid received by the district pursuant  
31 to subsections b., d., e., f., and g. of this section and subsection c. of  
32 section 18 of P.L.1996, c.138 (C.18A:7F-18), or \$500,000, whichever  
33 is less. A recommendation concerning the continuation of aid awarded  
34 pursuant to this subsection shall be made by the commissioner  
35 pursuant to the provisions of subsection c. of this section.

36 i. Any stabilization aid, supplemental stabilization aid, and  
37 supplemental school tax reduction aid paid pursuant to this section  
38 shall be applied toward the required local share of the school district  
39 or county vocational school district which receives the aid;except that  
40 for the 1997-98 school year, any aid received by a district pursuant to  
41 subsection h. of this section shall be an adjustment to the district's  
42 spending growth limitation.

43 (cf:P.L.1997,c.232,s.2)

44 2. (New section) Any additional State aid received by a district in  
45 the 1998-99 school year pursuant to the provisions of P.L. , c. (C. )  
46 (now pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall be an adjustment

1 to the district's spending growth limitation for the 1998-99 school  
2 year.

3

4 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

5

6

7

STATEMENT

8

9 This bill amends the "Comprehensive Educational Improvement and  
10 Financing Act of 1996," (CEIFA) P.L.1996, c.138, to adjust the  
11 prebudget year total on which the stabilization aid growth limit will be  
12 applied to calculate a district's permissible increase in State aid  
13 between the prebudget and budget years. The bill provides that any  
14 funds received by a school district in the 1997-98 school year as a  
15 restoration of an administrative penalty will be included in the district's  
16 prebudget year total for the purpose of calculating the district's  
17 stabilized aid in the 1998-99 school year and thereafter.

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2312**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: OCTOBER 5, 1998

The Assembly Education Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 2312.

This bill amends the "Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996," (CEIFA) P.L.1996, c.138, to adjust the prebudget year total on which the stabilization aid growth limit will be applied to calculate a district's permissible increase in State aid between the prebudget and budget years. The bill provides that any funds received by a school district in the 1997-98 school year as a restoration of an administrative penalty pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1997, c.232 will be included in the district's prebudget year total for the purpose of calculating the district's stabilized aid in the 1998-99 school year and thereafter.

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY, No. 2312

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 3, 1998

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably on Assembly Bill No. 2312.

Assembly Bill No. 2312 amends the "Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996," (CEIFA) P.L.1996, c.138, to adjust the prebudget year total on which the stabilization aid growth limit will be applied to calculate a district's permissible increase in stabilized aid between the prebudget and budget years.

The bill provides that any funds received by a school district in the 1997-98 school year as a restoration of an administrative penalty pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1997, c.232 will be included in the district's prebudget year total for the purpose of calculating the district's stabilized aid in the 1998-99 school year and thereafter.

"Stabilization aid growth limit" means generally 10% or the rate of growth in the district's projected resident enrollment over the prebudget year, whichever is greater. Stabilized aid includes core curriculum standards aid, supplemental core curriculum standards aid, distance learning network aid, categorical aids for special education programs, bilingual education programs, county vocational programs, early childhood program aid, demonstrably effective program aid, instructional supplement aid, transportation aid, aid for adult and postsecondary programs, and academic achievement rewards.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

The estimated impact of the recalculation of district prebudget year totals under the bill is an increase in 1998-1999 aid of \$1,828,510 affecting 34 school districts.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2312**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JANUARY 21, 1999

The Senate Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2312.

This bill amends the "Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996," (CEIFA) P.L.1996, c.138, to adjust the prebudget year total on which the stabilization aid growth limit will be applied to calculate a district's permissible increase in stabilized aid between the prebudget and budget years. The bill provides that any funds received by a school district in the 1997-98 school year as a restoration of an administrative penalty pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1997, c.232 will be included in the district's prebudget year total for the purpose of calculating the district's stabilized aid in the 1998-99 school year and thereafter.

As reported by committee, this bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1516.



# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY, No. 2312

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 18, 1999

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2312.

This bill amends the "Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996" (CEIFA), P.L.1996, c.138, to adjust the base budget amount to which the stabilization aid growth limit is applied to calculate a district's permissible year-to-year increase in stabilized aid.

A major element of CEIFA is a statutory mechanism to stabilize the annual rate of increase in certain categories of State aid to each school district. This mechanism is the "stabilization aid growth limit"; the limit is generally defined, for each budget year, as 10% or the rate of growth in the district's projected resident student enrollment from the prior year, whichever is greater. CEIFA provides that, for each school district, the annual increase in the total amount of State aid in the affected categories ("total stabilized aid") cannot increase by more than the growth limit percentage.

A law enacted in 1995 provided that any school district in which budgeted per pupil administrative spending exceeded by more than a specified percentage the median for such spending among all districts of the same operating type would be subject the following year to a reduction in school aid equal to the amount of the excess. This law was repealed in 1996 under CEIFA. Legislation enacted in 1997 provided that a school district that experienced a reduction in State aid in the 1996-97 school year as a result of application to the district of an administrative penalty would, for the 1998-99 school year, receive State aid in an amount equal to the amount of the penalty.

This bill provides that any funds received by a school district in the 1997-98 school year as a restoration of an administrative penalty pursuant to the provisions of the 1997 law will be included in the district's prebudget year total for the purpose of calculating the district's stabilized aid in the 1998-99 school year and thereafter. In addition, the bill provides that any additional State aid that a district receives as a result of the recalculation of its stabilized aid shall be an "adjustment" to the district's 1998-99 spending growth limitation; i.e., the district will be allowed to spend the additional aid without a referendum, notwithstanding that such expenditure, together with previously authorized expenditures, would exceed the district's

expenditure "cap".

This bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 1516.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that 34 school districts would receive additional aid under this bill in FY 1998-99. The Department of Education would be required to provide these districts with an additional \$1,828,510 in State aid in FY1998-99.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

## ASSEMBLY, No. 2312

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 208th LEGISLATURE

DATED: DECEMBER 14, 1998

Assembly Bill No. 2312 of 1998 amends the "Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996," (CEIFA) P.L.1996, c.138, to adjust the prebudget year total to which the stabilization aid growth limit is applied in order to determine the amount by which State aid to a district may increase over the prebudget year. The bill provides that any funds received by a school district in the 1997-98 school year as a restoration of an administrative penalty pursuant to P.L.1997, c.232 will be included in the district's prebudget year total for the purpose of calculating the district's stabilized aid in the 1998-99 school year and thereafter.

School districts that had their State aid reduced for the 1998-99 school year due to application of the stabilization aid growth limit and in school year 1997-98 received a restoration of administrative penalty funds pursuant to P.L.1997, c.232 would receive additional State aid under this bill. For these districts, the growth limit would be applied to a larger prebudget year total, and thus they would qualify for a larger increase in aid between the 1997-98 and 1998-99 school years. The Office of Legislative Services estimates that 34 school districts would receive additional aid under this bill in FY 1998-99. The Department of Education would be required to provide these districts with an additional \$1,828,510 in State aid in FY 1998-99.

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

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

# SENATE, No. 1516

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 23, 1998

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator ROBERT J. MARTIN**

**District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides that administrative penalty funds returned to school districts in the 1997-98 school year shall be included in each district's prebudget year total for the purpose of calculating stabilized aid in 1998-99 and thereafter.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**S1516 MARTIN**

2

1 **AN ACT** concerning stabilized aid for public school districts and  
2 amending P.L.1996, c.138.

3

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

6

7 1. Section 10 of P.L.1996, c.138 (C.18A:7F-10) is amended to  
8 read as follows:

9 10. a. Notwithstanding any other provision of this act to the  
10 contrary, the total stabilized aid for each district shall not be increased  
11 by more than the district's stabilization aid growth limit. In the event  
12 that total stabilized aid exceeds the prebudget year total by a rate  
13 greater than the stabilization aid growth limit, the commissioner shall  
14 adjust the components of total stabilized aid so that they total exactly  
15 the prebudget year total increased by the stabilization aid growth limit.  
16 For the 1997-98 school year, the prebudget year total shall include  
17 foundation aid, transition aid, categorical aids for special education,  
18 bilingual education and county vocational education, and  
19 transportation aid paid for the 1996-97 school year. For the 1998-99  
20 school year and thereafter, the prebudget year total shall be the total  
21 for the same aid categories as included in total stabilized aid plus any  
22 stabilization aid the district has received pursuant to subsection b. of  
23 this section, as paid in the prebudget years, plus any aid received by  
24 the district in the 1997-98 school year for the restoration of  
25 administrative penalties pursuant to the provisions of section 1 of  
26 P.L.1997, c.232 (C.18A:7F-5.1). For the 1997-98 and 1998-99 school  
27 years, total stabilized aid shall include core curriculum standards aid,  
28 categorical aids for special education programs, bilingual education  
29 programs, and county vocational programs, transportation aid, and aid  
30 for adult and postsecondary programs calculated pursuant to sections  
31 15, 19, 20, 21, 25, and 28 of this act. For the 1999-2000 school year  
32 and thereafter, total stabilized aid shall include core curriculum  
33 standards aid, supplemental core curriculum standards aid, distance  
34 learning network aid, categorical aids for special education programs,  
35 bilingual education programs, county vocational programs, early  
36 childhood program aid, demonstrably effective program aid,  
37 instructional supplement aid, transportation aid, aid for adult and  
38 postsecondary programs, and academic achievement rewards  
39 calculated pursuant to sections 15 through 22, 25, 28 and 29 of this  
40 act.

41 Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, the  
42 commissioner shall ensure that for any district with a stabilization  
43 reduction in 1997-98 that by the 1999-2000 school year and thereafter,

**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 the total stabilized aid for each school district reflects the actual pupil  
2 counts of the district.

3 b. Notwithstanding any other provision of this act to the contrary,  
4 the total of a district's stabilization aid, core curriculum standards aid,  
5 supplemental core curriculum standards aid, distance learning network  
6 aid, categorical aids for special education programs, bilingual  
7 education programs, county vocational programs, early childhood  
8 program aid, demonstrably effective program aid, transportation aid,  
9 aid for adult and postsecondary programs, and academic achievement  
10 rewards calculated pursuant to subsection a. of this section and  
11 sections 15 through 17, subsection a. of section 18, 19 through 22,  
12 25, 28 and 29 of this act, shall not be decreased by more than 10%  
13 below the amounts paid for these categories in the prebudget year. In  
14 the event that the sum of the formula entitlements calculated pursuant  
15 to those sections is less than 90% of the prebudget total, stabilization  
16 aid shall be paid in the amount of the difference between 90% of the  
17 prebudget year total and the sum of those entitlements. For the  
18 1997-98 school year, the prebudget year total shall include foundation  
19 aid, transition aid, aid for at-risk pupils, technology aid and categorical  
20 aids for special education, bilingual education and county vocational  
21 education, and transportation aid.

22 c. For the 1997-98 school year, supplemental stabilization aid shall  
23 be paid to any district in which:

24 (1) the total aid payable for the categories listed in subsection b. of  
25 this section is less than the prebudget year total for the same aids; and

26 (2) resident enrollment projected for October 1997 exceeds 99  
27 percent of the resident enrollment for October 1991 or resident  
28 enrollment projected for October 1997 is less than resident enrollment  
29 for October 1991 by 35 or fewer pupils or the prebudget year  
30 equalized tax rate exceeded the Statewide average equalized school  
31 tax rate by 10% or more.

32 An eligible district shall be aided in the amount of its total aid  
33 decline, after offset by any stabilization aid provided pursuant to  
34 subsection b. of this section, or \$4,000,000, whichever is less. The  
35 commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of the  
36 Department of Community Affairs and the Director of the Division of  
37 Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs,  
38 shall examine the fiscal ability of districts eligible for supplemental  
39 stabilization aid to absorb aid losses and shall make recommendations  
40 to the Legislature and the Governor regarding the continuation of  
41 supplemental stabilization aid. The commissioner shall not implement  
42 any of those recommendations until the recommendations are enacted  
43 into law.

44 d. Additional supplemental stabilization aid of \$500,000 per district  
45 shall be disbursed to any district which meets all of the following  
46 criteria:

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1 (1) the district's projected resident enrollment for the 1997-98  
2 school year exceeds 10,000 pupils;

3 (2) the district's 1996-97 net budget is less than the sum of its  
4 maximum T&E budget calculated pursuant to section 13 of this act  
5 and early childhood program aid, demonstrably effective program aid,  
6 instructional supplement aid, transportation aid, and categorical  
7 program aid received pursuant to sections 19 through 22, 28, and 29  
8 of this act;

9 (3) the district's total aid payable for the categories listed in  
10 subsection b. of this section exceeds the prebudget year total for the  
11 same aids by no more than 10%;

12 (4) the district's original State aid notice for 1996-97 was not  
13 reduced pursuant to P.L.1995, c.236 (C.18A:7E-6 et seq.);

14 (5) the district's core curriculum standards aid as a percentage of  
15 its T&E budget is less than 50%; and

16 (6) the district was certified as of November 30, 1996.

17 e. For the 1997-98 school year, each district which had pupils  
18 placed in a county special services school district on October 15, 1995  
19 shall receive additional supplemental stabilization aid as follows:

20 (1) when the sum of the district's total aid payable for the  
21 categories listed in subsection b. of this section, aid payable pursuant  
22 to subsections c. and d. of this section, and aid payable pursuant to  
23 subsection c. of section 18 of this act exceeds the prebudget year total  
24 for the same aids pursuant to subsection b. of this section, the district  
25 shall receive an amount equal to the excess of the State aid generated  
26 by such placements in the county special services school district in  
27 1996-97 over the excess calculated pursuant to this paragraph; or

28 (2) when the district's prebudget year aid pursuant to subsection b.  
29 of this section equals or exceeds the sum of the total aid payable for  
30 the categories listed in subsection b. of this section, aid payable  
31 pursuant to subsections c. and d. of this section, and aid payable  
32 pursuant to subsection c. of section 18 of this act, the district shall  
33 receive an amount equal to the State aid generated by such placements  
34 in the county special services school district in 1996-97.

35 f. Supplemental school tax reduction aid shall be paid to any  
36 district which meets the following criteria:

37 (1) the district's 1996-97 net budget per pupil is less than 115% of  
38 the State average net budget per pupil;

39 (2) the district's 1996-97 equalized tax rate of the general fund is  
40 greater than 130% of the Statewide average equalized school tax rate;

41 (3) the district does not receive any supplemental core curriculum  
42 standards aid; and

43 (4) the district is not included within the Department of  
44 Education's district factor groups I or J based on the 1990 federal  
45 census data.

46 Each district which is determined to be eligible to receive aid

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1 pursuant to this subsection shall receive aid according to the following  
2 formula:

3

4  $.75 \times (\text{ESTR} - 1.30 \times \text{STESTR}) \times \text{EVAL}$

5

6 where

7

8 ESTR is the district's equalized tax rate of the general fund for the  
9 1996-97 school year;

10

11 STESTR is the Statewide average equalized school tax rate for the  
12 1996-97 school year; and

13

14 EVAL is the district October 1995 equalized valuation.

15

16 No district shall receive more than \$300,000 pursuant to this  
17 subsection.

18 g. Additional supplemental stabilization aid shall be paid to any  
19 district which is located in a municipality which has a population  
20 composed of more than 45% senior citizens age 65 or older according  
21 to the most recent federal decennial census. The aid shall equal \$200  
22 multiplied by the district's resident enrollment projected for October  
23 1997.

24 h. For the 1997-98 school year, any county vocational school  
25 district which is not eligible for supplemental stabilization aid pursuant  
26 to subsection c. of this section but which meets the requirements of  
27 paragraph (1) of that subsection and in which the secondary resident  
28 enrollment for October 1996 exceeds the resident enrollment  
29 projected for October 1997 shall be entitled to supplemental  
30 stabilization aid after offset by any aid received by the district pursuant  
31 to subsections b., d., e., f., and g. of this section and subsection c. of  
32 section 18 of P.L.1996, c.138 (C.18A:7F-18), or \$500,000, whichever  
33 is less. A recommendation concerning the continuation of aid awarded  
34 pursuant to this subsection shall be made by the commissioner  
35 pursuant to the provisions of subsection c. of this section.

36 i. Any stabilization aid, supplemental stabilization aid, and  
37 supplemental school tax reduction aid paid pursuant to this section  
38 shall be applied toward the required local share of the school district  
39 or county vocational school district which receives the aid;except that  
40 for the 1997-98 school year, any aid received by a district pursuant to  
41 subsection h. of this section shall be an adjustment to the district's  
42 spending growth limitation.

43 (cf: P.L.1997, c.232, s.2)

44

45 2. (New section) Any additional State aid received by a district in  
46 the 1998-99 school year pursuant to the provisions of P.L. , c. (C. )



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6

1 (now pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall be an adjustment  
2 to the district's spending growth limitation for the 1998-99 school  
3 year.

4

5 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

6

7

8

**STATEMENT**

9

10 This bill amends the "Comprehensive Educational Improvement and  
11 Financing Act of 1996," (CEIFA) P.L.1996, c.138, to adjust the  
12 prebudget year total on which the stabilization aid growth limit will be  
13 applied to calculate a district's permissible increase in State aid  
14 between the prebudget and budget years. The bill provides that any  
15 funds received by a school district in the 1997-98 school year as a  
16 restoration of an administrative penalty will be included in the district's  
17 prebudget year total for the purpose of calculating the district's  
18 stabilized aid in the 1998-99 school year and thereafter.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 1516**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JANUARY 21, 1999

The Senate Education Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1516.

This bill amends the "Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996," (CEIFA) P.L.1996, c.138, to adjust the prebudget year total on which the stabilization aid growth limit will be applied to calculate a district's permissible increase in stabilized aid between the prebudget and budget years. The bill provides that any funds received by a school district in the 1997-98 school year as a restoration of an administrative penalty pursuant to the provisions of P.L.1997, c.232 will be included in the district's prebudget year total for the purpose of calculating the district's stabilized aid in the 1998-99 school year and thereafter.

As reported by committee, this bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2312.

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### SENATE, No. 1516

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MARCH 18, 1999

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1516.

This bill amends the "Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996" (CEIFA), P.L.1996, c.138, to adjust the base budget amount to which the stabilization aid growth limit is applied to calculate a district's permissible year-to-year increase in stabilized aid.

A major element of CEIFA is a statutory mechanism to stabilize the annual rate of increase in certain categories of State aid to each school district. This mechanism is the "stabilization aid growth limit"; the limit is generally defined, for each budget year, as 10% or the rate of growth in the district's projected resident student enrollment from the prior year, whichever is greater. CEIFA provides that, for each school district, the annual increase in the total amount of State aid in the affected categories ("total stabilized aid") cannot increase by more than the growth limit percentage.

A law enacted in 1995 provided that any school district in which budgeted per pupil administrative spending exceeded by more than a specified percentage the median for such spending among all districts of the same operating type would be subject the following year to a reduction in school aid equal to the amount of the excess. This law was repealed in 1996 under CEIFA. Legislation enacted in 1997 provided that a school district that experienced a reduction in State aid in the 1996-97 school year as a result of application to the district of an administrative penalty would, for the 1998-99 school year, receive State aid in an amount equal to the amount of the penalty.

This bill provides that any funds received by a school district in the 1997-98 school year as a restoration of an administrative penalty pursuant to the provisions of the 1997 law will be included in the district's prebudget year total for the purpose of calculating the district's stabilized aid in the 1998-99 school year and thereafter. In addition, the bill provides that any additional State aid that a district receives as a result of the recalculation of its stabilized aid shall be an "adjustment" to the district's 1998-99 spending growth limitation; i.e., the district will be allowed to spend the additional aid without a referendum, notwithstanding that such expenditure, together with previously authorized expenditures, would exceed the district's

expenditure "cap".

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 2312.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The Office of Legislative Services estimates that 34 school districts would receive additional aid under this bill in FY 1998-99. The Department of Education would be required to provide these districts with an additional \$1,828,510 in State aid in FY1998-99.

STATEMENT TO  
**SENATE, No. 1516**

with Senate Floor Amendments  
(Proposed By Senator MARTIN)

ADOPTED: MARCH 22, 1999

This amendment limits the amount of additional State aid which a school district may receive under the bill's provisions in the 1998-99 and 1999-2000 school years to \$90,000 per year. The amendment also provides that any additional aid to which a district would be entitled in the 1999-2000 school year under the bill's provisions will be paid to the district in the 2000-2001 school year as an adjustment to the district's 1999-2000 State aid.

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 1516**

with Senate Floor Amendments  
(Proposed By Senator MARTIN)

ADOPTED: MAY 24, 1999

These amendments delete the cap of \$90,000 imposed on additional aid received by a district under the bill and delete reference to the aid that a district may be entitled to in the 1999-2000 school year.

# LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

## SENATE, No. 1516

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 208th LEGISLATURE

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 1999

Senate Bill No. 1516 of 1998 amends the "Comprehensive Educational Improvement and Financing Act of 1996," (CEIFA) P.L. 1996, c.138, to adjust the prebudget year total to which the stabilization aid growth limit is applied in order to determine the amount by which State aid to a district may increase over the prebudget year. The bill provides that any funds received by a school district in the 1997-98 school year as a restoration of an administrative penalty pursuant to P.L. 1997, c.232 will be included in the district's prebudget year total for the purpose of calculating the district's stabilized aid in the 1998-99 school year and thereafter.

School districts that had their State aid reduced for the 1998-99 school year due to application of the stabilization aid growth limit and in school year 1997-98 received a restoration of administrative penalty funds pursuant to P.L. 1997, c.232 would receive additional State aid under this bill. For these districts, the growth limit would be applied to a larger prebudget year total, and thus they would qualify for a larger increase in aid between the 1997-98 and 1998-99 school years. The Office of Legislative Services estimates that 34 school districts would receive additional aid under this bill in FY 1998-99. The Department of Education would be required to provide these districts with an additional \$1,828,510 in State aid in FY1998-99.

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

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

## ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 2312

To the Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 2312 with my recommendations for reconsideration.

### Summary of Bill

The bill amends the 1996 Comprehensive Improvement and Financing Act ("CEIFA") to adjust the prebudget year total on which the stabilization aid growth limit will be applied to calculate a district's permissible increase in State aid between the prebudget and budget years. The bill provides that any funds received by a school district in the 1997-98 school year as a restoration of an administrative penalty will be included in the district's prebudget year total for the purpose of calculating stabilized aid in the 1998-99 school year and thereafter.

### Recommended Action

I appreciate the sponsors' efforts to adjust the amount of stabilization aid received by school districts as a result of the restoration of administrative penalties in the 1997-98 school year. I recommend, however, two technical amendments to ensure that the objective of the bill is properly carried out.

First, I recommend that the bill be amended to provide that the adjustment to a district's prebudget year net budget due to the restoration of administrative penalties is only made once. The bill, as drafted, incorrectly requires that adjustment to be made for the 1998-99 school year and thereafter. Adding the penalties back once will ensure their inclusion in all subsequent year calculations of stabilized aid.

Second, I recommend that the bill be amended to specifically exclude the additional aid provided under this bill from the calculation of a district's cost per elementary pupil of delivering a thorough and efficient education ("T&E"). As drafted, the bill would change the stabilization aid of the districts impacted by the bill. That change will alter the T&E budget calculation for those districts. A change in one or more district's T&E budget will require a recalculation of local share amounts and in turn force a complete Statewide recalculation of core curriculum standards aid for the 1999 and the 2000 fiscal years. I recommend, therefore, that the restoration of administrative penalties for the purposes designated in the



bill shall not effect the calculation of the T&E budget.

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 2312 with the following recommendations:

Page 2, Section 1, Line 23:

After "plus" insert ",in the 1998-99 school year,"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 26:

Before "For" insert "The restoration of administrative penalties for this purpose shall not affect the calculation of the T&E budget pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-13."

Respectfully,

Christine Todd Whitman  
Governor

Attest:

Richard S. Mroz  
Chief Counsel to the Governor

PO BOX 004  
TRENTON, NJ 08625

*Office of the Governor*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

CONTACT: Gene Herman  
609-777-2600

RELEASE: December 20, 1999

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

**ACS for A-1016**, sponsored by Assembly Members Charles Zisa (D-Bergen), Francis J. Blee (R-Atlantic), Melvin Cottrell (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Joseph R. Malone, III (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean), exempts law enforcement officers from certain bicycle laws in the performance of their official duties.

**A-1126**, sponsored by E. Scott Garrett (R-Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris) and Guy R. Gregg (R-Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris), clarifies existing law by providing that a recreational vehicle installed in a campsite is not subject to the property tax. The bill defines a recreational vehicle as a camper that is easily disassembled and removed from a campground. The bill specifically excludes a manufactured home or a permanent residence.

**A-1884**, sponsored by Assembly Members Carol J. Murphy (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Nicholas Asselta (R-Atlantic/CapeMay/Cumberland) and Senator James S. Cafiero (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland), expands the eligibility for state grants to Alzheimer day care programs to include for-profit as well as public and non-profit programs. It also appropriates \$803,000 from the General Fund to increase the number of clients who can be served by Alzheimer's adult day care programs. The bill incorporates the recommendations the Governor made in a conditional veto of the bill.

**A-2312**, sponsored by Assembly Members Rose Marie Heck (R-Bergen) and David W. Wolfe (R-Monmouth/Ocean) and Senator Robert J. Martin (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic), provides that administrative penalty funds returned to school districts in the 1997-98 school year shall be included in each district's prebudget year total for the purpose of calculating stabilized aid in 1998-99 and thereafter. The bill incorporates the recommendations the Governor made in a conditional veto of the bill.

**A-2785**, sponsored by Assembly Members Rose Marie Heck (R-Bergen) and Nicholas Asselta (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Senators Diane B. Allen (R-Burlington/Camden) and John O. Bennett (R-Monmouth), requires fingerprinting of domestic violence offenders. The bill was introduced upon the recommendation of the Assembly Task Force on Domestic Violence in order to enhance enforcement of the federal firearms ban with respect to domestic violence offenders. The bill requires fingerprinting upon conviction for the disorderly persons offenses of assault and harassment that constitute domestic violence. It also requires the fingerprinting of any persons against whom a final domestic violence restraining order has been entered.

**A-2789**, sponsored by Assembly Members Kevin J. O'Toole (R-Essex/Union) and Joseph Azzolina (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and Senators Martha W. Bark (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Camden) and Robert W. Singer (R- Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Diane B. Allen (R-Burlington/Camden), requires annual domestic violence training for family court judges. Under previous law, all judges and court personnel were required to receive biannual training on the handling of domestic violence matters. The Assembly Task Force on domestic violence recommended in a report issued in July, 1998 that the statutory requirement for biannual training be increased.

**S-1258**, sponsored by Senators James S. Cafiero (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and John A. Girgenti (D-Passaic) and Assembly Members Francis J. Blee (R-Atlantic) and Kenneth C. Lefevre (R-Atlantic), makes it a third degree crime to knowingly use a laser sighting system or device against a law enforcement officer who is engaged in the performance of his or her official duties and is in uniform or otherwise displaying evidence of his or her authority. Third degree crimes are punishable by a three-to-five-year term of imprisonment or a \$15,000 fine or both. For first offenders, however, a presumption against incarceration applies.

**S-1378**, revises various hunting, trapping and fishing license fees and related provisions, and changes the name of the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife to the Division of Fish and Wildlife. The bill increases the fees for various hunting, fishing and trapping licenses, permits and stamps by an average of about 50 percent. The bill also authorizes the division to collect a new \$2 fee from migratory bird hunters to pay for information collection activities mandated by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program. The legislation was sponsored by Senators Robert E. Littell (R-Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris) and Joseph F. Vitale (D-Middlesex) and Assembly Members Michael Patrick Carroll (R-Morris) and Melvin Cottrell (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean).