

52:9RR-1 to 52:9RR-7

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2007 **CHAPTER:** 55

NJSA: 52:9RR-1 to 52:9RR-7 (Establishes Joint Committee on Housing Affordability)

BILL NO: A470 (Substituted for S1263)

SPONSOR(S) Green and Others

DATE INTRODUCED: Pre-filed

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Housing and Local Government

SENATE:

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** January 29, 2007

SENATE: January 8, 2007

DATE OF APPROVAL: March 15, 2007

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

[FINAL TEXT OF BILL](#) (Second Reprint enacted)

A470

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:](#) (Begins on page 4 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **[ASSEMBLY:](#)** [Yes](#)

SENATE: No

[FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:](#) [Yes](#)

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE: No

S1263

[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:](#) (Begins on page 4 of original bill) [Yes](#)

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** No

[SENATE:](#) [Yes](#)

[FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:](#) [Yes](#)

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: No

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

RWH 4-23-08

Title 52.
Chapter 9RR
(New)
Housing
Affordability,
Joint Committee
§§1-7 –
C.52:9RR-1 to
52:9RR-7

P.L. 2007, CHAPTER 55, *approved March 15, 2007*
Assembly, No. 470 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT creating a Joint Committee on **'[Affordable]'** Housing
2 'Affordability' to provide oversight of **'[affordable]'** housing
3 availability in the State and supplementing Title 52 of the New
4 Jersey Statutes.

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

8
9 1. The Legislature finds and declares:

10 a. It has been **[almost]** 'more than' twenty years since the
11 Legislature enacted the "Fair Housing Act," P.L.1985, c.222
12 (C.52:27D-301 et al.) which provides a voluntary system for
13 municipalities to follow in zoning for affordable housing. Since the
14 time of the enactment of this law, there has not been a unified
15 review by the Legislature of the administration of the "Fair Housing
16 Act," or a review of the issue of **'[affordable]'** housing availability
17 'and affordability' in general.

18 b. Soaring housing prices **'[and]'** 'escalating property taxes',
19 'increasing municipal fees, rising energy costs, and the costs to
20 implement various State rules and regulations' have put
21 **'[affordable]'** housing out of the reach of many citizens,
22 particularly senior citizens on fixed incomes.

23 c. Available land to develop is rapidly dwindling, causing many
24 experts to predict that New Jersey will be "built-out" by the end of
25 the next decade. New Jersey currently is the most densely
26 populated State in the nation.

27 d. Conflicting public policies on land use and planning have
28 resulted in a lack of a coordinated approach by the State in
29 addressing the issues that relate to the availability of decent,
30 affordable housing 'for both home buyers and renters'.

31 e. There is a need for continued, integrated oversight by the
32 Legislature to review and shape solutions to address the State's
33 **'[affordable] residents'** housing needs, and to address the
34 Legislature's responsibility for the "Fair Housing Act" as an

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:

¹Assembly AHO committee amendments adopted January 30, 2006.

²Senate floor amendments adopted December 14, 2006.

1 alternative to the court's remedies granted under the *Mount Laurel*
2 doctrine.

3
4 2. There is hereby created a committee to be known as the "Joint
5 Committee on **'[Affordable]'** Housing **'Affordability'**." The
6 committee shall consist of five members of the Senate, including
7 two members of the Senate Community and Urban Affairs
8 Committee, or its successor, to be appointed by the President of the
9 Senate and five members of the General Assembly, including two
10 members of the Assembly Housing and Local Government
11 Committee, or its successor, to be appointed by the Speaker of the
12 General Assembly. No more than three of the members from each
13 House shall be of the same political party. All members shall serve
14 without compensation and vacancies in the membership of the
15 committee shall be filled in the same manner as the original
16 appointments are made. ²**[The President of the Senate and the**
17 **Speaker of the General Assembly may jointly agree to appoint a**
18 **lesser number of members from each house for the duration of any**
19 **session of the Legislature]**².

20
21 3. The committee shall select a chairman and vice chairman
22 from among its members and a secretary who need not be a member
23 of the committee.

24
25 4. The committee is authorized, empowered and directed to
26 conduct a continuing study of the availability and provision of
27 housing affordable to **'all New Jersey'** households **'[of low and**
28 **moderate incomes]**¹, the financing and administration of programs
29 providing affordable housing, **'the rules, regulations or actions**
30 **promulgated or enforced by various State government entities,**
31 **including but not limited to, departments, boards, bureaus,**
32 **commissions, or agencies, that may negatively impact the**
33 **affordability of housing,**¹ and land use policies and other issues
34 related to making housing affordable, for the purpose of making
35 recommendations for legislative action, including amendments to
36 the "Fair Housing Act," P.L.1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-301 et al.) or to
37 the "State Planning Act," P.L.1985, c.398 (C.52:18A-196 et al.), or
38 to any other statute as it deems practicable and desirable for the
39 provision of opportunities for **'[affordable] the affordability and**
40 **availability of**¹ housing for all residents throughout the State.

41
42 5. ²**[Whenever any bill is introduced in either the Senate or**
43 **General Assembly, and that bill receives first reading pursuant to**
44 **the rules of the House in which it is introduced, the bill shall be**
45 **immediately reviewed by the Legislative Budget and Finance**
46 **Officer in the Office of Legislative Services. If, upon his**
47 **preliminary review, the Legislative Budget and Finance Officer**

1 determines that the bill may potentially] The staff of the Joint
 2 Committee shall review all bills introduced into both houses each
 3 Legislative session for identification of those bills which will
 4 clearly have a significant² impact upon the cost ¹[or],¹ availability
 5 ¹, or affordability¹ of housing in New Jersey ²[, he shall
 6 immediately forward]. A list of those bills so identified shall be
 7 prepared, and thereafter² a statement to the sponsor and the
 8 chairman of the committee, if any, to which ²[the] a² bill ²on the
 9 list² was referred, or to the presiding officer of the House in which
 10 the bill originated if no such reference was made, ²[that, in his
 11 judgment,] shall be sent by the Joint Committee Staff indicating
 12 that² a housing affordability impact note is required. ²[A copy of a
 13 bill receiving such a determination shall be submitted by the
 14 Legislative Budget and Finance Officer to the Joint Committee on
 15 ¹[Affordable]¹ Housing ¹[,] Affordability¹ established pursuant to
 16 section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (now before the Legislature as
 17 this bill), for the preparation of a housing affordability impact note.
 18 The] An² impact note ²for each bill on the list² shall ²thereafter²
 19 be completed by the ¹[joint committee] Joint Committee¹ ²[within
 20 30 calendar days] as soon as practicable², unless ²[an extension of
 21 time is approved] a request to expedite the preparation of an impact
 22 note is made² by the bill's sponsor. If there is insufficient
 23 information to prepare a reliable estimate of the anticipated impact,
 24 a statement to that effect may be filed and shall meet the
 25 requirements of this section. The Legislative Budget and Finance
 26 Officer and the Office of Legislative Services shall provide such
 27 assistance as may be requested by the Joint Committee in the
 28 preparation of the housing affordability impact note.

29

30 6. The committee shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
 31 avail itself of the services of the employees of the Legislative
 32 Services Commission, as well as employees of any other State,
 33 county or municipal department, board, bureau, commission or
 34 agency as it may require and as may be available to it for its
 35 purposes, and to employ such professional, stenographic and
 36 clerical assistants and incur such traveling and other miscellaneous
 37 expenses as it may deem necessary, in order to perform its duties,
 38 and as may be within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise
 39 made available to it for those purposes.

40

41 7. The committee may meet and hold hearings at such place or
 42 places as it shall designate during the sessions or recesses of the
 43 Legislature and shall make an annual report of its findings and
 44 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature, and may
 45 make other reports or recommendations as it deems necessary or
 46 desirable.

1 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

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6

Establishes Joint Committee on Housing Affordability.

ASSEMBLY, No. 470

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

212th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2006 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JERRY GREEN

District 22 (Middlesex, Somerset and Union)

Assemblyman JOHN J. BURZICHELLI

District 3 (Salem, Cumberland and Gloucester)

Assemblyman JOSEPH VAS

District 19 (Middlesex)

Assemblyman LOUIS M. MANZO

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Chivukula, Van Drew, S.Kean, Conaway,

Assemblywoman Pou, Assemblymen Connors, Cohen, Hackett, Diegnan,

Steele, Johnson and Assemblywoman Watson Coleman

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Joint Committee on Affordable Housing.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 AN ACT creating a Joint Committee on Affordable Housing to
2 provide oversight of affordable housing availability in the State
3 and supplementing Title 52 of the New Jersey Statutes.
4

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

7
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares:

9 a. It has been almost twenty years since the Legislature enacted
10 the "Fair Housing Act," P.L.1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-301 et al.)
11 which provides a voluntary system for municipalities to follow in
12 zoning for affordable housing. Since the time of the enactment of
13 this law, there has not been a unified review by the Legislature of
14 the administration of the "Fair Housing Act," or a review of the
15 issue of affordable housing availability in general.

16 b. Soaring housing prices and escalating property taxes have put
17 affordable housing out of the reach of many citizens, particularly
18 senior citizens on fixed incomes.

19 c. Available land to develop is rapidly dwindling, causing many
20 experts to predict that New Jersey will be "built-out" by the end of
21 the next decade. New Jersey currently is the most densely
22 populated State in the nation.

23 d. Conflicting public policies on land use and planning have
24 resulted in a lack of a coordinated approach by the State in
25 addressing the issues that relate to the availability of decent,
26 affordable housing.

27 e. There is a need for continued, integrated oversight by the
28 Legislature to review and shape solutions to address the State's
29 affordable housing needs, and to address the Legislature's
30 responsibility for the "Fair Housing Act" as an alternative to the
31 court's remedies granted under the *Mount Laurel* doctrine.
32

33 2. There is hereby created a committee to be known as the "Joint
34 Committee on Affordable Housing." The committee shall consist of
35 five members of the Senate, including two members of the Senate
36 Community and Urban Affairs Committee, or its successor, to be
37 appointed by the President of the Senate and five members of the
38 General Assembly, including two members of the Assembly
39 Housing and Local Government Committee, or its successor, to be
40 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly. No more than
41 three of the members from each House shall be of the same political
42 party. All members shall serve without compensation and
43 vacancies in the membership of the committee shall be filled in the
44 same manner as the original appointments are made. The President
45 of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly may jointly
46 agree to appoint a lesser number of members from each house for
47 the duration of any session of the Legislature.

1 3. The committee shall select a chairman and vice chairman
2 from among its members and a secretary who need not be a member
3 of the committee.

4
5 4. The committee is authorized, empowered and directed to
6 conduct a continuing study of the availability and provision of
7 housing affordable to households of low and moderate incomes, the
8 financing and administration of programs providing affordable
9 housing, and land use policies and other issues related to making
10 housing affordable, for the purpose of making recommendations for
11 legislative action, including amendments to the "Fair Housing Act,"
12 P.L.1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-301 et al.) or to the "State Planning
13 Act," P.L.1985, c.398 (C.52:18A-196 et al.), or to any other statute
14 as it deems practicable and desirable for the provision of
15 opportunities for affordable housing for all residents throughout the
16 State.

17
18 5. Whenever any bill is introduced in either the Senate or
19 General Assembly, and that bill receives first reading pursuant to
20 the rules of the House in which it is introduced, the bill shall be
21 immediately reviewed by the Legislative Budget and Finance
22 Officer in the Office of Legislative Services. If, upon his
23 preliminary review, the Legislative Budget and Finance Officer
24 determines that the bill may potentially impact upon the cost or
25 availability of housing in New Jersey, he shall immediately forward
26 a statement to the sponsor and the chairman of the committee, if
27 any, to which the bill was referred, or to the presiding officer of the
28 House in which the bill originated if no such reference was made,
29 that, in his judgment, a housing affordability impact note is
30 required. A copy of a bill receiving such a determination shall be
31 submitted by the Legislative Budget and Finance Officer to the
32 Joint Committee on Affordable Housing, established pursuant to
33 section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (now before the Legislature as
34 this bill), for the preparation of a housing affordability impact note.
35 The impact note shall be completed by the joint committee within
36 30 calendar days, unless an extension of time is approved by the
37 bill's sponsor. If there is insufficient information to prepare a
38 reliable estimate of the anticipated impact, a statement to that effect
39 may be filed and shall meet the requirements of this section. The
40 Legislative Budget and Finance Officer and the Office of
41 Legislative Services shall provide such assistance as may be
42 requested by the Joint Committee in the preparation of the housing
43 affordability impact note.

44
45 6. The committee shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
46 avail itself of the services of the employees of the Legislative
47 Services Commission, as well as employees of any other State,
48 county or municipal department, board, bureau, commission or

1 agency as it may require and as may be available to it for its
2 purposes, and to employ such professional, stenographic and
3 clerical assistants and incur such traveling and other miscellaneous
4 expenses as it may deem necessary, in order to perform its duties,
5 and as may be within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise
6 made available to it for those purposes.
7

8 7. The committee may meet and hold hearings at such place or
9 places as it shall designate during the sessions or recesses of the
10 Legislature and shall make an annual report of its findings and
11 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature, and may
12 make other reports or recommendations as it deems necessary or
13 desirable.
14

15 8. This act shall take effect immediately.
16
17

18 STATEMENT
19

20 This bill establishes the "Joint Committee on Affordable
21 Housing," as a joint committee of the Legislature to study the
22 provision of affordable housing opportunities within the State,
23 whether they be new construction or existing housing. The bill
24 directs the committee to prepare a housing affordability impact note
25 for legislation determined by the Legislative Budget Officer to have
26 a potential impact on the cost or availability of new housing.

27 It has been almost twenty years since the Legislature enacted the
28 "Fair Housing Act," which provides a voluntary system for
29 municipalities to follow in zoning for affordable housing. Since the
30 time of the enactment of this law, there has not been a unified
31 review by the Legislature of the administration of the "Fair Housing
32 Act," or a review of the issues surrounding affordable housing in
33 general.

34 In 1975, in order to provide a legislative vehicle for continued
35 oversight in the provision of a system of free public schools, the
36 Legislature created the Joint Committee on the Public Schools. It is
37 the sponsor's intent to provide a similar coordinated approach of the
38 Legislature in its ongoing role to oversee the availability of
39 affordable housing throughout the State. Although there are
40 committees in each house to which legislation on affordable
41 housing are referred, the need for these committees to address all
42 types of legislation that is referred to them prevents an in-depth and
43 long term approach to the issues related to affordable housing. The
44 Joint Committee on Affordable Housing will serve as the research
45 and policy arm of the Legislature on all issues related to affordable
46 housing and help ensure that the Legislature, who retains
47 responsibility for the "Fair Housing Act" as an alternative to the
48 court's remedies granted under the *Mount Laurel* doctrine, will

A470 GREEN, BURZICHELLI

5

- 1 continue to review and shape solutions to address the State's
- 2 affordable housing needs.

ASSEMBLY HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 470

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 30, 2006

This bill, as amended, establishes the "Joint Committee on Housing Affordability," as a joint committee of the Legislature to study the provision of housing opportunities within the State, whether they be new construction or existing housing, with a focus on the availability and affordability of housing for all New Jersey inhabitants. The bill directs the committee to prepare a housing affordability impact note for legislation determined by the Legislative Budget and Finance Officer to have a potential impact on the cost or availability of new housing.

It has been more than twenty years since the Legislature enacted the "Fair Housing Act," which provides a voluntary system for municipalities to follow in zoning for affordable housing. Since the time of the enactment of this law, there has not been a unified review by the Legislature of the administration of the "Fair Housing Act," or a review of the issues surrounding the affordability of housing in general.

In 1975, in order to provide a legislative vehicle for continued oversight in the provision of a system of free public schools, the Legislature created the Joint Committee on the Public Schools. It is the sponsor's intent to provide a similar coordinated approach of the Legislature in its ongoing role to oversee the availability and affordability of housing throughout the State. Although there are committees in each house to which legislation on affordable housing are referred, the need for these committees to address all types of legislation that is referred to them prevents an in-depth and long term approach to the issues related to housing affordability. The Joint Committee on Housing Affordability will serve as the research and policy arm of the Legislature on all issues related to what impacts the affordability of housing, including reviewing the rules and regulations of State entities which may impact the availability and affordability of housing negatively, as well as preparing "housing affordability impact notes" for legislation, which if enacted, may in some manner affect housing affordability. The identification process provided by the bill,

as well as ongoing, continual oversight by the Legislature, which retains responsibility for the "Fair Housing Act" as an alternative to the court's remedies granted under the *Mount Laurel* doctrine, will help to ensure coordinated solutions are implemented to address not only the State's affordable housing needs for low and moderate income individuals, but New Jersey's need for available and affordable housing for all of its citizens, regardless of income or economic status.

Committee amendments

The committee amended the bill to change the name of the committee from the "Joint Committee on Affordable Housing" to the "Joint Committee of Housing Affordability" to reflect the broader role intended under the bill for the committee to identify the factors that impact on housing affordability in general, and to maintain a forum for shaping housing policy for all New Jersey residents.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2006-2007 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 470

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed By Senator TURNER)

ADOPTED: DECEMBER 14, 2006

These floor amendments place the responsibility for identifying bills which will clearly have a significant impact on the cost, availability or affordability of housing in New Jersey upon the staff of the Joint Committee for Housing Affordability, rather than upon the staff of the Legislative Budget and Finance Officer. In addition, the amendments remove the requirement for the affordability impact note to be completed in 30 days, and instead provide that an impact note may be prepared by the Joint Committee as soon as practicable, or may be provided in an expedited manner upon the request of a bill's sponsor. The amendments also eliminate the ability of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly to jointly agree to appoint a lesser number of members from each house.

SENATE, No. 1263

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 212th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 6, 2006

Sponsored by:

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Mercer)

Senator RONALD L. RICE

District 28 (Essex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes Joint Committee on Affordable Housing.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/17/2006)

1 AN ACT creating a Joint Committee on Affordable Housing to
2 provide oversight of affordable housing availability in the State
3 and supplementing Title 52 of the New Jersey Statutes.

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

7
8 1. The Legislature finds and declares:

9 a. It has been almost twenty years since the Legislature enacted
10 the "Fair Housing Act," P.L.1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-301 et al.)
11 which provides a voluntary system for municipalities to follow in
12 zoning for affordable housing. Since the time of the enactment of
13 this law, there has not been a unified review by the Legislature of
14 the administration of the "Fair Housing Act," or a review of the
15 issue of affordable housing availability in general.

16 b. Soaring housing prices and escalating property taxes have put
17 affordable housing out of the reach of many citizens, particularly
18 senior citizens on fixed incomes.

19 c. Available land to develop is rapidly dwindling, causing many
20 experts to predict that New Jersey will be "built-out" by the end of
21 the next decade. New Jersey currently is the most densely
22 populated State in the nation.

23 d. Conflicting public policies on land use and planning have
24 resulted in a lack of a coordinated approach by the State in
25 addressing the issues that relate to the availability of decent,
26 affordable housing.

27 e. There is a need for continued, integrated oversight by the
28 Legislature to review and shape solutions to address the State's
29 affordable housing needs, and to address the Legislature's
30 responsibility for the "Fair Housing Act" as an alternative to the
31 court's remedies granted under the *Mount Laurel* doctrine.

32
33 2. There is hereby created a committee to be known as the "Joint
34 Committee on Affordable Housing." The committee shall consist of
35 five members of the Senate, including two members of the Senate
36 Community and Urban Affairs Committee, or its successor, to be
37 appointed by the President of the Senate and five members of the
38 General Assembly, including two members of the Assembly
39 Housing and Local Government Committee, or its successor, to be
40 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly. No more than
41 three of the members from each House shall be of the same political
42 party. All members shall serve without compensation and
43 vacancies in the membership of the committee shall be filled in the
44 same manner as the original appointments are made. The President
45 of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly may jointly
46 agree to appoint a lesser number of members from each house for
47 the duration of any session of the Legislature.

1 3. The committee shall select a chairman and vice chairman
2 from among its members and a secretary who need not be a member
3 of the committee.

4
5 4. The committee is authorized, empowered and directed to
6 conduct a continuing study of the availability and provision of
7 housing affordable to households of low and moderate incomes, the
8 financing and administration of programs providing affordable
9 housing, and land use policies and other issues related to making
10 housing affordable, for the purpose of making recommendations for
11 legislative action, including amendments to the "Fair Housing Act,"
12 P.L.1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-301 et al.) or to the "State Planning
13 Act," P.L.1985, c.398 (C.52:18A-196 et al.), or to any other statute
14 as it deems practicable and desirable for the provision of
15 opportunities for affordable housing for all residents throughout the
16 State.

17
18 5. Whenever any bill is introduced in either the Senate or
19 General Assembly, and that bill receives first reading pursuant to
20 the rules of the House in which it is introduced, the bill shall be
21 immediately reviewed by the Legislative Budget and Finance
22 Officer in the Office of Legislative Services. If, upon his
23 preliminary review, the Legislative Budget and Finance Officer
24 determines that the bill may potentially impact upon the cost or
25 availability of housing in New Jersey, he shall immediately forward
26 a statement to the sponsor and the chairman of the committee, if
27 any, to which the bill was referred, or to the presiding officer of the
28 House in which the bill originated if no such reference was made,
29 that, in his judgment, a housing affordability impact note is
30 required. A copy of a bill receiving such a determination shall be
31 submitted by the Legislative Budget and Finance Officer to the
32 Joint Committee on Affordable Housing, established pursuant to
33 section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
34 as this bill), for the preparation of a housing affordability impact
35 note. The impact note shall be completed by the joint committee
36 within 30 calendar days, unless an extension of time is approved by
37 the bill's sponsor. If there is insufficient information to prepare a
38 reliable estimate of the anticipated impact, a statement to that effect
39 may be filed and shall meet the requirements of this section. The
40 Legislative Budget and Finance Officer and the Office of
41 Legislative Services shall provide such assistance as may be
42 requested by the Joint Committee in the preparation of the housing
43 affordability impact note.

44
45 6. The committee shall be entitled to call to its assistance and
46 avail itself of the services of the employees of the Legislative
47 Services Commission, as well as employees of any other State,
48 county or municipal department, board, bureau, commission or

1 agency as it may require and as may be available to it for its
2 purposes, and to employ such professional, stenographic and
3 clerical assistants and incur such traveling and other miscellaneous
4 expenses as it may deem necessary, in order to perform its duties,
5 and as may be within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise
6 made available to it for those purposes.

7
8 7. The committee may meet and hold hearings at such place or
9 places as it shall designate during the sessions or recesses of the
10 Legislature and shall make an annual report of its findings and
11 recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature, and may
12 make other reports or recommendations as it deems necessary or
13 desirable.

14
15 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

16
17
18 STATEMENT

19
20 This bill would establish the "Joint Committee on Affordable
21 Housing" and direct the committee to conduct a continuous study
22 of:

- 23 • the availability and provision of housing affordable to
24 households of low and moderate incomes,
25 • the financing and administration of programs
26 providing affordable housing, and
27 • land use policies and other issues related to making
28 housing affordable,

29 for the purpose of making recommendations for legislative action.

30 The joint committee would consist of 10 members of the
31 Legislature: five Senators, two of whom would be members of the
32 Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee, to be appointed
33 by the Senate President and five members of the General Assembly,
34 two of whom would be members of the Assembly Housing and
35 Local Government Committee, to be appointed by the Speaker. The
36 joint committee would be comprised of members of both major
37 political parties. The presiding officers of the Legislature would be
38 authorized to reduce the size of the membership of the joint
39 committee for the duration of any legislative session.

40 The joint committee would have all the powers of a joint
41 committee of the Legislature under the provisions of chapter 13 of
42 Title 52 of the Revised Statutes, including the power to compel the
43 attendance of persons as witnesses and the production of books and
44 papers as it may deem necessary, proper and relevant to a matter
45 under investigation.

SENATE COMMUNITY AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1263

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 16, 2006

The Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1263.

This bill, as amended by the committee, would establish a new joint committee of the Legislature, the "Joint Committee on Housing Affordability," whose charge would be to conduct a continuing study of the availability and provision of housing affordable to all New Jersey households for the purpose of making recommendations for legislative action.

The committee would have 10 members, five Senators and five members of the General Assembly, however the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly could jointly agree to appoint a lesser number of members from each house for a legislative session. The bill requires bipartisan representation on the joint committee.

The bill directs the joint committee to prepare a housing affordability impact note for legislation determined by the Legislative Budget and Finance Officer to have a potential impact on the cost or availability of new housing.

The committee amended the bill to change the name of the committee from the "Joint Committee on Affordable Housing" to the "Joint Committee of Housing Affordability" to reflect the broader role intended under the bill for the committee to identify the factors that impact on housing affordability in general, and to maintain a forum for shaping housing policy for all New Jersey residents.

STATEMENT TO
[First Reprint]
SENATE, No. 1263

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed By Senator TURNER)

ADOPTED: DECEMBER 14, 2006

These floor amendments place the responsibility for identifying bills which will clearly have a significant impact on the cost, availability or affordability of housing in New Jersey upon the staff of the Joint Committee for Housing Affordability, rather than upon the staff of the Legislative Budget and Finance Officer. In addition, the amendments remove the requirement for the affordability impact note to be completed in 30 days, and instead provide that an impact note may be prepared by the Joint Committee as soon as practicable, or may be provided in an expedited manner upon the request of a bill's sponsor. The amendments also eliminate the ability of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly to jointly agree to appoint a lesser number of members from each house.