

# 52:16A-99

## LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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**LAWS OF:** 2008                    **CHAPTER:** 85  
**NJSA:** 52:16A-99            (Establishes Ellis Island Advisory Commission)  
**BILL NO:** A2869            (Substituted for S1695)

**SPONSOR(S):** Greenwald and others

**DATE INTRODUCED:** May 22, 2008

**COMMITTEE:**            **ASSEMBLY:** State Government

**SENATE:**

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** No

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**            **ASSEMBLY:** June 23, 2008

**SENATE:** June 23, 2008

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** September 12, 2008

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

[FINAL TEXT OF BILL](#) (Original version of bill enacted)

**A2869**

**[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:](#)** (Begins on page 5 of original bill) [Yes](#)

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

**SENATE:** No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at [www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us))

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**S1695**

**[SPONSOR'S STATEMENT:](#)** (Begins on page 5 of original bill) [Yes](#)

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** No

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

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE:** No

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**[GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:](#)** [Yes](#)

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** No

LAW/IS 1/5/09

P.L. 2008, CHAPTER 85, *approved September 12, 2008*  
Assembly, No. 2869

1 AN ACT establishing the Ellis Island Advisory Commission and  
2 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Ellis Island occupies a significant and unique place in  
9 America's heritage; it was the primary United States immigration  
10 station from 1892 to 1954 when more than 12 million people passed  
11 through the station complex - the greatest surge of migration in  
12 America's history; and today, 40% of Americans can trace their  
13 family history from Ellis Island, which was added to the national  
14 park system in 1965 and placed under the operational supervision of  
15 the National Park Service as a part of the Statue of Liberty National  
16 Monument in recognition of its importance in American history,  
17 architecture, and culture.

18 b. The closure of Ellis Island in 1954 resulted in its  
19 abandonment and decay; in 1990, following extensive  
20 rehabilitation, the Main Building reopened as an immigration  
21 museum and several buildings have been rehabilitated as  
22 administrative offices; and the National Park Service is working  
23 with Save Ellis Island, Inc. as the non-profit partner for  
24 implementation of the Ellis Island Institute and conference center,  
25 which is the preferred re-use for the remaining unused buildings on  
26 Ellis Island.

27 c. The Ellis Island Institute would be the primary use and would  
28 include cultural, interpretive and educational programs and  
29 activities with a policy research center and administrative and study  
30 space; and the associated conference center would host meetings,  
31 retreats and workshops that primarily focus on immigration, world  
32 migration, public health, cultural and ethnic diversity, and family  
33 history.

34 d. On May 26, 1998 the Supreme Court of the United States  
35 recognized and acknowledged New Jersey's sovereignty and  
36 governmental control over a substantial portion of Ellis Island, as  
37 defined in the Court's opinion; in December 1999 the Governor's  
38 Advisory Committee on the Preservation and Use of Ellis Island  
39 issued its final report and recommendations; and in 2000 Save Ellis  
40 Island, Inc. was created in response to the Governor's advisory  
41 committee.

1 e. It is desirable to create a State-level commission, which as  
2 an organized body, on a continuous basis, will: promote the  
3 interests of the State of New Jersey and provide assistance and  
4 advice to Save Ellis Island, Inc., its successors and other interested  
5 parties concerning the proposed Ellis Island Institute and its  
6 associated conference center; promote the proposed Ellis Island  
7 Institute and its associated conference center regionally and  
8 nationally as an important cultural and private-public initiative and  
9 destination venue; provide recognition for the accomplishments of  
10 the State of New Jersey in the rehabilitation, reuse and protection of  
11 cultural and historic resources on Ellis Island; and prepare reports  
12 to the Governor and the Legislature regarding its findings and  
13 recommendations.

14

15 2. a. The Ellis Island Advisory Commission is hereby created  
16 and established in the Executive Branch of the State Government.  
17 For the purposes of complying with the provisions of Article V,  
18 Section IV, paragraph 1, of the New Jersey Constitution, the  
19 commission is allocated within the Department of State.

20 The commission shall consist of 20 voting members, as follows:

21 (1) a representative of the Governor's office, the Secretary of  
22 State or a designee, the State Treasurer or a designee, the Attorney  
23 General or a designee, the Commissioner of Environmental  
24 Protection or a designee, the Commissioner of Education or a  
25 designee, the Executive Director of the New Jersey Commerce  
26 Commission or a designee, the Commissioner of Health and Senior  
27 Services or a designee, the Commissioner of Transportation or a  
28 designee, the New Jersey State representative of the National Trust  
29 for Historic Preservation or a designee, and the President of Save  
30 Ellis Island, Inc. or a designee, each serving ex officio;

31 (2) four members of the Legislature, of whom one shall be  
32 appointed by the Senate President, one by the Senate Minority  
33 Leader, one by the Speaker of the General Assembly and one by the  
34 Minority Leader of the General Assembly. Legislators appointed to  
35 the commission shall serve as members thereof for terms co-  
36 extensive with their respective terms as members of the Houses of  
37 the Legislature from which they were appointed; and

38 (3) five members shall be appointed by the Governor, with the  
39 advice and consent of the Senate, of whom one shall be a  
40 representative of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey,  
41 chosen with expertise in immigration issues, and one shall be a  
42 representative of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New  
43 Jersey, chosen with expertise in public health issues, and three shall  
44 be members of the public, chosen with due regard for their  
45 knowledge of the role of Ellis Island in American history, including  
46 one member with expertise in the hospitality industry and one  
47 member with expertise in the development industry. No public  
48 members shall hold elective office.

1       b. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a  
2 term of three years, except that of the initial members so appointed:  
3 one member shall serve for one year, two members shall serve for  
4 two years, and two members shall serve for three years. Public  
5 members shall be eligible for reappointment. They shall serve until  
6 their successors are appointed and qualified, and the term of any  
7 successor of any incumbent shall be calculated from the expiration  
8 of the term of that incumbent. A vacancy occurring other than by  
9 expiration of the term shall be filled in the same manner as the  
10 original appointment but for the expired term only. Public members  
11 may be removed by the Governor for cause.

12       c. The members of the commission shall serve without  
13 compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses  
14 incurred in the performance of their duties subject to the availability  
15 of funds.

16       d. The Secretary of State, or a designee, shall serve as chair,  
17 and the members of the commission shall elect annually one of the  
18 public members to serve as vice-chair. The chair may appoint a  
19 secretary, who need not be a member of the commission. The  
20 presence of a majority of the full membership of the commission  
21 shall be required for the conduct of official business.

22       e. The commission shall meet at the call of the chair. The  
23 commission shall hold at least two meetings annually which shall  
24 be held at the State capitol and at such other times and places as the  
25 commission may deem expedient, including on Ellis Island.

26

27       3. The Ellis Island Advisory Commission shall have the  
28 following responsibilities and duties:

29       a. to recommend that the proposed Ellis Island Institute and its  
30 associated conference center are aligned fully with New Jersey  
31 interests, industries and existing institutions;

32       b. to promote the Ellis Island Institute and its associated  
33 conference center regionally and nationally as an important cultural  
34 and private-public initiative and a destination venue;

35       c. to recognize the accomplishments of the State of New Jersey  
36 in the rehabilitation, reuse and protection of cultural and historic  
37 resources on Ellis Island;

38       d. to provide, based upon the collective interest of the members  
39 and the knowledge and experience of its staff, assistance and advice  
40 to Save Ellis Island, Inc., its successors and other interested parties;

41       e. to cooperate with the State of New York and the City of  
42 New York, when appropriate, with respect to the rehabilitation,  
43 reuse, and protection of the Ellis Island buildings and resources;

44       f. to prepare reports for the Governor and the Legislature  
45 regarding its findings and recommendations; and

46       g. to receive and accept appropriations, as well as foster  
47 development of gifts and donations to minimize any fiscal impact  
48 upon the State.

1 4. The commission shall report its findings and  
2 recommendations to the Governor and to the Legislature, pursuant  
3 to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), within one year of  
4 its initial organizational meeting and by the fifteenth of February of  
5 each succeeding year for the activities of the preceding calendar  
6 year.

7  
8 5. The commission is authorized to call upon any department,  
9 office, division or agency of the State, or of a political subdivision  
10 of the State, to supply such information and assistance as it deems  
11 necessary to discharge its responsibilities under this act.

12  
13 6. This act shall take effect immediately.

14  
15  
16 STATEMENT

17  
18 This bill establishes a 20-member "Ellis Island Advisory  
19 Commission." The responsibilities and duties of the commission  
20 are to:

21 1) recommend that the proposed Ellis Island Institute and its  
22 associated conference center are aligned fully with New Jersey  
23 interests, industries and existing institutions;

24 2) promote the Ellis Island Institute and its associated  
25 conference center regionally and nationally as an important cultural  
26 and private-public initiative and as a destination venue;

27 3) recognize the accomplishments of the State in the  
28 rehabilitation, reuse and protection of cultural and historic resources  
29 on Ellis Island;

30 4) provide, based upon the collective interest of the members  
31 and the knowledge and experience of its staff, assistance and advice  
32 to Save Ellis Island, Inc., its successors and other interested parties;

33 5) cooperate with the State of New York and the City of New  
34 York, when appropriate, with respect to the rehabilitation, reuse,  
35 and protection of cultural and historic resources on Ellis Island;

36 6) prepare reports for the Governor and the Legislature  
37 regarding the commission's findings and recommendations; and

38 7) receive and accept appropriations, and foster development of  
39 gifts and donations to minimize any fiscal impact upon the State.

40 The commission shall consist of 20 voting members, including  
41 eleven members serving ex officio as follows: a representative of  
42 the Governor's office, the Secretary of State or a designee, the State  
43 Treasurer or a designee, the Attorney General or a designee, the  
44 Commissioner of Environmental Protection or a designee, the  
45 Commissioner of Education or a designee, the Executive Director of  
46 the New Jersey Commerce Commission or a designee, the  
47 Commissioner of Health and Senior Services or a designee, the  
48 Commissioner of Transportation or a designee, the New Jersey

1 State representative of the National Trust for Historic Preservation  
2 or a designee, and the President of Save Ellis Island, Inc. or a  
3 designee.

4 In addition, four members of the Legislature shall be appointed  
5 as follows: one by the Senate President, one by the Senate Minority  
6 Leader, one by the Speaker of the General Assembly and one by the  
7 Minority Leader of the General Assembly. Legislators appointed to  
8 the commission shall serve as members thereof for terms co-  
9 extensive with their respective terms as members of the House of  
10 the Legislature from which they were appointed.

11 Finally, five members shall be appointed by the Governor, with  
12 the advice and consent of the Senate, of whom one shall be a  
13 representative of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey,  
14 chosen with expertise in immigration issues, one shall be a  
15 representative of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New  
16 Jersey, chosen with expertise in public health issues, and three shall  
17 be members of the public, chosen with due regard for their  
18 knowledge of the role of Ellis Island in American history, including  
19 one member with expertise in the hospitality industry and one  
20 member with expertise in the development industry.

21 The commission is to report its findings and recommendations to  
22 the Governor and the Legislature within one year of its initial  
23 organization meeting and annually thereafter by the fifteenth of  
24 February of each ensuing year.

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29

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Establishes Ellis Island Advisory Commission.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2869

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 213th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 22, 2008

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD**

**District 6 (Camden)**

**Assemblyman ANTHONY CHIAPPONE**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Assemblyman NEIL M. COHEN**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Johnson, Prieto, Gusciora and Senator Cunningham**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Ellis Island Advisory Commission.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2008)**



1 AN ACT establishing the Ellis Island Advisory Commission and  
2 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. Ellis Island occupies a significant and unique place in  
9 America's heritage; it was the primary United States immigration  
10 station from 1892 to 1954 when more than 12 million people passed  
11 through the station complex - the greatest surge of migration in  
12 America's history; and today, 40% of Americans can trace their  
13 family history from Ellis Island, which was added to the national  
14 park system in 1965 and placed under the operational supervision of  
15 the National Park Service as a part of the Statue of Liberty National  
16 Monument in recognition of its importance in American history,  
17 architecture, and culture.

18 b. The closure of Ellis Island in 1954 resulted in its  
19 abandonment and decay; in 1990, following extensive  
20 rehabilitation, the Main Building reopened as an immigration  
21 museum and several buildings have been rehabilitated as  
22 administrative offices; and the National Park Service is working  
23 with Save Ellis Island, Inc. as the non-profit partner for  
24 implementation of the Ellis Island Institute and conference center,  
25 which is the preferred re-use for the remaining unused buildings on  
26 Ellis Island.

27 c. The Ellis Island Institute would be the primary use and would  
28 include cultural, interpretive and educational programs and  
29 activities with a policy research center and administrative and study  
30 space; and the associated conference center would host meetings,  
31 retreats and workshops that primarily focus on immigration, world  
32 migration, public health, cultural and ethnic diversity, and family  
33 history.

34 d. On May 26, 1998 the Supreme Court of the United States  
35 recognized and acknowledged New Jersey's sovereignty and  
36 governmental control over a substantial portion of Ellis Island, as  
37 defined in the Court's opinion; in December 1999 the Governor's  
38 Advisory Committee on the Preservation and Use of Ellis Island  
39 issued its final report and recommendations; and in 2000 Save Ellis  
40 Island, Inc. was created in response to the Governor's advisory  
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42 e. It is desirable to create a State-level commission, which as  
43 an organized body, on a continuous basis, will: promote the  
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45 advice to Save Ellis Island, Inc., its successors and other interested  
46 parties concerning the proposed Ellis Island Institute and its  
47 associated conference center; promote the proposed Ellis Island  
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12 commission is allocated within the Department of State.

13 The commission shall consist of 20 voting members, as follows:

14 (1) a representative of the Governor's office, the Secretary of  
15 State or a designee, the State Treasurer or a designee, the Attorney  
16 General or a designee, the Commissioner of Environmental  
17 Protection or a designee, the Commissioner of Education or a  
18 designee, the Executive Director of the New Jersey Commerce  
19 Commission or a designee, the Commissioner of Health and Senior  
20 Services or a designee, the Commissioner of Transportation or a  
21 designee, the New Jersey State representative of the National Trust  
22 for Historic Preservation or a designee, and the President of Save  
23 Ellis Island, Inc. or a designee, each serving ex officio;

24 (2) four members of the Legislature, of whom one shall be  
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26 Leader, one by the Speaker of the General Assembly and one by the  
27 Minority Leader of the General Assembly. Legislators appointed to  
28 the commission shall serve as members thereof for terms co-  
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30 the Legislature from which they were appointed; and

31 (3) five members shall be appointed by the Governor, with the  
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34 chosen with expertise in immigration issues, and one shall be a  
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2 expiration of the term shall be filled in the same manner as the  
3 original appointment but for the expired term only. Public members  
4 may be removed by the Governor for cause.

5 c. The members of the commission shall serve without  
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8 of funds.

9 d. The Secretary of State, or a designee, shall serve as chair,  
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11 public members to serve as vice-chair. The chair may appoint a  
12 secretary, who need not be a member of the commission. The  
13 presence of a majority of the full membership of the commission  
14 shall be required for the conduct of official business.

15 e. The commission shall meet at the call of the chair. The  
16 commission shall hold at least two meetings annually which shall  
17 be held at the State capitol and at such other times and places as the  
18 commission may deem expedient, including on Ellis Island.

19

20 3. The Ellis Island Advisory Commission shall have the  
21 following responsibilities and duties:

22 a. to recommend that the proposed Ellis Island Institute and its  
23 associated conference center are aligned fully with New Jersey  
24 interests, industries and existing institutions;

25 b. to promote the Ellis Island Institute and its associated  
26 conference center regionally and nationally as an important cultural  
27 and private-public initiative and a destination venue;

28 c. to recognize the accomplishments of the State of New Jersey  
29 in the rehabilitation, reuse and protection of cultural and historic  
30 resources on Ellis Island;

31 d. to provide, based upon the collective interest of the members  
32 and the knowledge and experience of its staff, assistance and advice  
33 to Save Ellis Island, Inc., its successors and other interested parties;

34 e. to cooperate with the State of New York and the City of  
35 New York, when appropriate, with respect to the rehabilitation,  
36 reuse, and protection of the Ellis Island buildings and resources;

37 f. to prepare reports for the Governor and the Legislature  
38 regarding its findings and recommendations; and

39 g. to receive and accept appropriations, as well as foster  
40 development of gifts and donations to minimize any fiscal impact  
41 upon the State.

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43 4. The commission shall report its findings and  
44 recommendations to the Governor and to the Legislature, pursuant  
45 to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), within one year of  
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47 each succeeding year for the activities of the preceding calendar  
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15 the Governor and the Legislature within one year of its initial  
16 organization meeting and annually thereafter by the fifteenth of  
17 February of each ensuing year.

# ASSEMBLY STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY, No. 2869

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 12, 2008

The Assembly State Government Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2869.

This bill establishes the Ellis Island Advisory Commission. The responsibilities and duties of the commission are:

1) to recommend that the proposed Ellis Island Institute and its associated conference center are aligned fully with New Jersey interests, industries and existing institutions;

2) to promote the Ellis Island Institute and its associated conference center regionally and nationally as an important cultural and private-public initiative and as a destination venue;

3) to recognize the accomplishments of the State in the rehabilitation, reuse and protection of cultural and historic resources on Ellis Island;

4) to provide, based upon the collective interest of the members and the knowledge and experience of its staff, assistance and advice to Save Ellis Island, Inc., its successors and other interested parties;

5) to cooperate with the State of New York and the City of New York, when appropriate, with respect to the rehabilitation, reuse, and protection of cultural and historic resources on Ellis Island;

6) to prepare reports for the Governor and the Legislature regarding the commission's findings and recommendations; and

7) to receive and accept appropriations, and foster development of gifts and donations to minimize any fiscal impact upon the State.

The commission will consist of 20 voting members, including eleven members serving ex officio: a representative of the Governor's office, the Secretary of State or a designee, the State Treasurer or a designee, the Attorney General or a designee, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection or a designee, the Commissioner of Education or a designee, the Executive Director of the New Jersey Commerce Commission or a designee, the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services or a designee, the Commissioner of Transportation or a designee, the New Jersey State representative of the National Trust for Historic Preservation or a designee, and the President of Save Ellis Island, Inc. or a designee. Four members of the Legislature will be appointed for terms co-extensive with their service in the Legislature: one by the Senate President, one by the Senate Minority Leader, one by the Speaker of the General Assembly and one by the

Minority Leader of the General Assembly. Five members will be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate: one representative of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, with expertise in immigration issues, one representative of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey with expertise in public health issues, and three members of the public with knowledge of the role of Ellis Island in American history, including one member with expertise in the hospitality industry and one member with expertise in the development industry.

Assembly Bill No. 2869 is identical to Senate Bill No. 1695 of 2008.

**SENATE, No. 1695**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**213th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 2008

**Sponsored by:**  
**Senator SANDRA B. CUNNINGHAM**  
**District 31 (Hudson)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Ellis Island Advisory Commission.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.





**S1695 CUNNINGHAM**

2

1 **AN ACT** establishing the Ellis Island Advisory Commission and  
2 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

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

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

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11 through the station complex - the greatest surge of migration in  
12 America's history; and today, 40% of Americans can trace their  
13 family history from Ellis Island, which was added to the national  
14 park system in 1965 and placed under the operational supervision of  
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33 history.

34 d. On May 26, 1998 the Supreme Court of the United States  
35 recognized and acknowledged New Jersey's sovereignty and  
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**S1695 CUNNINGHAM**

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21 designee, the New Jersey State representative of the National Trust  
22 for Historic Preservation or a designee, and the President of Save  
23 Ellis Island, Inc. or a designee, each serving ex officio;

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25 appointed by the Senate President, one by the Senate Minority  
26 Leader, one by the Speaker of the General Assembly and one by the  
27 Minority Leader of the General Assembly. Legislators appointed to  
28 the commission shall serve as members thereof for terms co-  
29 extensive with their respective terms as members of the Houses of  
30 the Legislature from which they were appointed; and

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32 advice and consent of the Senate, of whom one shall be a  
33 representative of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey,  
34 chosen with expertise in immigration issues, and one shall be a  
35 representative of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New  
36 Jersey, chosen with expertise in public health issues, and three shall  
37 be members of the public, chosen with due regard for their  
38 knowledge of the role of Ellis Island in American history, including  
39 one member with expertise in the hospitality industry and one  
40 member with expertise in the development industry. No public  
41 members shall hold elective office.

42 b. Each public member of the commission shall serve for a  
43 term of three years, except that of the initial members so appointed:  
44 one member shall serve for one year, two members shall serve for  
45 two years, and two members shall serve for three years. Public  
46 members shall be eligible for reappointment. They shall serve until  
47 their successors are appointed and qualified, and the term of any  
48 successor of any incumbent shall be calculated from the expiration

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1 of the term of that incumbent. A vacancy occurring other than by  
2 expiration of the term shall be filled in the same manner as the  
3 original appointment but for the expired term only. Public members  
4 may be removed by the Governor for cause.

5 c. The members of the commission shall serve without  
6 compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses  
7 incurred in the performance of their duties subject to the availability  
8 of funds.

9 d. The Secretary of State, or a designee, shall serve as chair,  
10 and the members of the commission shall elect annually one of the  
11 public members to serve as vice-chair. The chair may appoint a  
12 secretary, who need not be a member of the commission. The  
13 presence of a majority of the full membership of the commission  
14 shall be required for the conduct of official business.

15 e. The commission shall meet at the call of the chair. The  
16 commission shall hold at least two meetings annually which shall  
17 be held at the State capitol and at such other times and places as the  
18 commission may deem expedient, including on Ellis Island.

19

20 3. The Ellis Island Advisory Commission shall have the  
21 following responsibilities and duties:

22 a. to recommend that the proposed Ellis Island Institute and its  
23 associated conference center are aligned fully with New Jersey  
24 interests, industries and existing institutions;

25 b. to promote the Ellis Island Institute and its associated  
26 conference center regionally and nationally as an important cultural  
27 and private-public initiative and a destination venue;

28 c. to recognize the accomplishments of the State of New Jersey  
29 in the rehabilitation, reuse and protection of cultural and historic  
30 resources on Ellis Island;

31 d. to provide, based upon the collective interest of the members  
32 and the knowledge and experience of its staff, assistance and advice  
33 to Save Ellis Island, Inc., its successors and other interested parties;

34 e. to cooperate with the State of New York and the City of  
35 New York, when appropriate, with respect to the rehabilitation,  
36 reuse, and protection of the Ellis Island buildings and resources;

37 f. to prepare reports for the Governor and the Legislature  
38 regarding its findings and recommendations; and

39 g. to receive and accept appropriations, as well as foster  
40 development of gifts and donations to minimize any fiscal impact  
41 upon the State.

42

43 4. The commission shall report its findings and  
44 recommendations to the Governor and to the Legislature, pursuant  
45 to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), within one year of  
46 its initial organizational meeting and by the fifteenth of February of  
47 each succeeding year for the activities of the preceding calendar  
48 year.



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6

1 the commission shall serve as members thereof for terms co-  
2 extensive with their respective terms as members of the House of  
3 the Legislature from which they were appointed.

4 Finally, five members shall be appointed by the Governor, with  
5 the advice and consent of the Senate, of whom one shall be a  
6 representative of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey,  
7 chosen with expertise in immigration issues, one shall be a  
8 representative of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New  
9 Jersey, chosen with expertise in public health issues, and three shall  
10 be members of the public, chosen with due regard for their  
11 knowledge of the role of Ellis Island in American history, including  
12 one member with expertise in the hospitality industry and one  
13 member with expertise in the development industry.

14 The commission is to report its findings and recommendations to  
15 the Governor and the Legislature within one year of its initial  
16 organization meeting and annually thereafter by the fifteenth of  
17 February of each ensuing year.

# SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### SENATE, No. 1695

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 19, 2008

The Senate State Government Committee reports favorably Senate, No. 1695.

This bill establishes a 20-member "Ellis Island Advisory Commission." The responsibilities and duties of the commission are to:

1) recommend that the proposed Ellis Island Institute and its associated conference center are aligned fully with New Jersey interests, industries and existing institutions;

2) promote the Ellis Island Institute and its associated conference center regionally and nationally as an important cultural and private-public initiative and as a destination venue;

3) recognize the accomplishments of the State in the rehabilitation, reuse and protection of cultural and historic resources on Ellis Island;

4) provide, based upon the collective interest of the members and the knowledge and experience of its staff, assistance and advice to Save Ellis Island, Inc., its successors and other interested parties;

5) cooperate with the State of New York and the City of New York, when appropriate, with respect to the rehabilitation, reuse, and protection of cultural and historic resources on Ellis Island;

6) prepare reports for the Governor and the Legislature regarding the commission's findings and recommendations; and

7) receive and accept appropriations, and foster development of gifts and donations to minimize any fiscal impact upon the State.

The commission is to consist of 20 voting members, including eleven members serving ex officio as follows: a representative of the Governor's office, the Secretary of State or a designee, the State Treasurer or a designee, the Attorney General or a designee, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection or a designee, the Commissioner of Education or a designee, the Executive Director of the New Jersey Commerce Commission or a designee, the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services or a designee, the Commissioner of Transportation or a designee, the New Jersey State representative of the National Trust for Historic Preservation or a designee, and the President of Save Ellis Island, Inc. or a designee.

In addition, four members of the Legislature are to be appointed as follows: one by the Senate President, one by the Senate Minority

Leader, one by the Speaker of the General Assembly and one by the Minority Leader of the General Assembly. Legislators appointed to the commission are to serve as members thereof for terms co-extensive with their respective terms as members of the house of the Legislature from which they were appointed.

Finally, five members are to be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, of whom one is to be a representative of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, chosen with expertise in immigration issues, one is to be a representative of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, chosen with expertise in public health issues, and three are to be members of the public, chosen with due regard for their knowledge of the role of Ellis Island in American history, including one member with expertise in the hospitality industry and one member with expertise in the development industry.

The commission is to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature within one year of its initial organization meeting and annually thereafter by the fifteenth of February of each ensuing year.

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JON S. CORZINE  
*Governor*

**For Immediate Release: For More Information:**  
**Date:** September 12, 2008      Robert Corrales

**Phone:** 609-777-2600

Governor Signs Legislation Establishing Ellis Island Advisory Commission

Ellis Island – Governor Jon S. Corzine today signed legislation creating the Ellis Island Advisory Commission. The bill, A2869/S1695, will help to preserve the Island’s history by making the Ellis Island Institute a vital cultural center and visitor destination.

“Ellis Island is a cultural and historic symbol that represents the ‘Gateway to America’ for the more than 12 million immigrants who passed through its gates,” said Governor Corzine. “By signing this legislation, we are ensuring that legacy by preserving and protecting this national treasure for future generations to experience.”

The mission of the new Commission has several key objectives: promoting the Ellis Island Institute and conference center regionally and nationally as a vital cultural and destination venue; working with the State of New York and the City of New York on the rehabilitation, reuse and protection of cultural and historic resources at Ellis Island; and ensuring the proposed Institute and conference center represent New Jersey interests, industries and existing institutions.



“For millions of immigrants, Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty served as their first view of the United States, after a weeks and sometimes months long journey in search of more opportunity and a better life,” said Senator Sandra B. Cunningham (D-Hudson). “Regardless of how our ancestors entered this country, this site stands as a reminder of the sacrifices that were made to ensure that the words ‘liberty and justice for all’ ring true. I can’t think of a better way to preserve such an integral part of American history.”

The commission will consist of 20 voting members, including representatives from the Departments of Environmental Protection, Education, Health and Senior Services and Transportation; four members of the Legislature; and five Governor-appointed members with expertise in immigration, public health and the history of Ellis Island.

“For millions of families across the nation, the path to the American Dream started on Ellis Island,” said Assemblyman Louis D. Greenwald (D-Camden). “The restoration of Ellis Island’s hospital will give future generations a window into one the country’s greatest challenges -- protecting the health of the teems of people who endured months at sea hoping to start new lives here. We must ensure that we preserve our state’s role in this national historic site that played a vital part in the lives and health of millions of immigrant families.”

Ellis Island opened on January 1, 1892 and operated until 1954, processing more than 12 million immigrants that passed through the facility located in New York Harbor. The main building was restored and opened as a museum on September 10, 1990. On May 26, 1998 the U.S. Supreme Court recognized and acknowledged New Jersey’s jurisdiction over a substantial portion of Ellis Island.

Primary sponsors of the legislation were Assemblymen Louis D. Greenwald (D-Camden), Anthony Chiappone (D-Hudson), and Senator Sandra B. Cunningham (D-Hudson).

## QUICK FACTS ABOUT ELLIS ISLAND

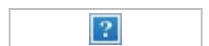
- Ellis Island is named after Samuel Ellis, a businessman and landowner who owned the island from the 1780s until he died in 1794.
- The land was then transferred to the State of New York until it was ceded to the Federal Government in 1808.
- Ellis Island opened in 1892 as the first federally operated immigration station and was originally comprised of wooden buildings.
- The site officially closed in 1954 after processing more than 12 million immigrants.
- In 1965, it became part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument site under the National Park Service.
- The main building was restored during the 1980’s at a cost of \$160 million and opened as a National Immigration Museum on September 10, 1990.
- In 1998, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that a substantial portion of Ellis Island falls under New Jersey jurisdiction.
- Today, more than 40 percent of Americans can trace their ancestry through Ellis Island.

Source: National Park Service

###

Photos from Governor Corzine’s public events are available in the [Governor’s Newsroom section](#) on the State of New Jersey web page.

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