

**9:12A-2 to 9:12A-9**  
**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**  
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**LAWS OF:** 1999                    **CHAPTER:** 224

**NJSA:** 9:12A-2 to 9:12A-9        (New Jersey Homeless Youth Act)

**BILL NO:** S1789                (Substituted for A2985)

**SPONSOR(S):** Gormley and Vitale

**DATE INTRODUCED:** March 22, 1999

**COMMITTEE:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** -----

**SENATE:** Budget and Appropriations; Women's Issues, Children & Family Services

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:**        Yes

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**                **ASSEMBLY:** June 24, 1999

**SENATE:** June 21, 1999

**DATE OF APPROVAL:**                September 22, 1999

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL:** Senate Committee Substitute (1R)  
(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

**SCS for S1789**

**SPONSORS STATEMENT:** No

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

**SENATE:**        [Yes](#)    [5-20-99 \(Women's Issues\)](#)  
[Yes](#)    [6-14-99 \(Budget\)](#)

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS:**                    [Yes](#)

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**S1789**

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

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

**SENATE:**        No  
No

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS**                    No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**ACS for A2985**

**SPONSORS STATEMENT** No

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**

**ASSEMBLY:** [Yes](#) [5-3-99](#)  
Identical to 5-20-99 Senate Statement for S1789  
[Yes](#) [6-7-99](#)  
Identical to 6-14-99 Senate Budget Statement for S1789

**SENATE:** No

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**A2985**

**[SPONSORS STATEMENT:](#)** (Begins on page 5 of original bill) [Yes](#)  
Bill and Sponsor Statement identical to S1789

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

**SENATE:** No

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS:** No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:** No

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

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

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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

**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** Yes

"Governor signs legislation for homeless youths," [Atlantic City Press](#), 9-23-99, p. C2

Chapter 12A of  
Title 9,  
redesignated  
Children's Shelters  
§§1-8  
C. 9:12A-2 to  
9:12A-9  
§9 - Approp.  
§10 - Note To §§1-9

P.L. 1999, CHAPTER 224, *approved September 22, 1999*  
Senate Committee Substitute (*First Reprint*) for  
Senate, No. 1789

1 **AN ACT** concerning homeless youth, supplementing Title 9 of the  
2 Revised Statutes and making an appropriation.

3

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

6

7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New Jersey  
8 Homeless Youth Act."

9

10 2. The Legislature finds and declares that: homeless youth are a  
11 largely invisible population; many of these children have no families  
12 and are being exploited by adults or are turning to delinquency as a  
13 way to survive on the streets; these young people are urgently in need  
14 of services which will prevent them from becoming permanently  
15 homeless; therefore, it is in the best interest of the State to establish  
16 and support a continuum of services geared specifically for homeless  
17 youth, including street outreach or basic center shelter or transitional  
18 living programs.

19

20 3. As used in this act:

21 "Department" means the Department of Human Services.

22 "Division" means the Division of Youth and Family Services in the  
23 Department of Human Services.

24 "Homeless youth" means a person 21 years of age or younger who  
25 is without shelter where appropriate care and supervision are available.

26

27 4. The department shall establish and support a comprehensive  
28 program for homeless youth in the State by contracting with  
29 organizations and agencies, licensed by the department, that provide  
30 street outreach or basic center shelter or transitional living services for  
31 homeless youth. The department shall establish licensure requirements  
32 and shall contract for programs that ensure that services, as specified

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

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

**<sup>1</sup> Senate floor amendments adopted June 21, 1999.**

1 by this act, are provided to homeless youth in the State in an  
2 appropriate and responsible manner. The commissioner may establish  
3 such other requirements for the homeless youth programs as he deems  
4 necessary.

5  
6 5. A street outreach program for homeless youth shall enhance  
7 the accessibility of resources to a homeless youth by locating,  
8 contacting and providing services to the youth through mobile  
9 outreach.

10 The services provided by the street outreach program, as  
11 determined by the department's contract, may include, but are not  
12 limited to:

- 13 a. Assistance in finding temporary or short-term shelter;
- 14 b. Assistance in obtaining food;
- 15 c. A clothing allowance;
- 16 d. Individual and group counseling in the area of violence  
17 prevention;
- 18 e. Information and referral services regarding organizations and  
19 agencies that provide support services to homeless youth; and
- 20 f. Assistance in obtaining medical care.

21  
22 6. a. A basic center shelter program shall provide a homeless  
23 youth with 24-hour, seven-day a week, walk-in access to emergency,  
24 short-term residential care. The services offered by the program shall  
25 provide a homeless youth with a stable out-of-home placement and  
26 help reunite the youth with his parent or legal guardian, except in the  
27 case where family reunification is not in the youth's best interest.

28 The services provided at the basic center shelter, as determined by  
29 the department's contract, may include, but are not limited to, the  
30 following core services:

- 31 (1) Family reunification services;
- 32 (2) Individual, family and group counseling;
- 33 (3) Food;
- 34 (4) A clothing allowance;
- 35 (5) Medical care;
- 36 (6) Educational services;
- 37 (7) Recreational activities; and
- 38 (8) Advocacy and referral services.

39 b. If a homeless youth under the age of 18 is admitted to a basic  
40 center shelter, the shelter shall attempt to notify the youth's parent or  
41 legal guardian of the youth's admission within 24 hours after the  
42 admission. The notification shall include a description of the youth's  
43 physical and emotional condition and the circumstances surrounding  
44 the youth's admission to the basic center shelter, unless there are  
45 compelling reasons not to provide the parent or legal guardian with  
46 this information. Compelling reasons include, but are not limited to,

1 circumstances in which the youth is or has been a victim of child abuse  
2 or neglect.

3 c. If a homeless youth under the age of 18 is admitted to a basic  
4 center shelter, the shelter shall notify the division of the youth's  
5 admission to the basic center shelter within 24 hours after the  
6 admission to determine if the youth is in the legal care or custody of  
7 the division. If the homeless youth is in the legal care or custody of  
8 the division, the division, in consultation with the basic center shelter,  
9 shall determine what services shall be provided to the youth. The  
10 services may include, but are not limited to: crisis intervention  
11 services, continued temporary placement in the basic center shelter for  
12 up to 30 days, placement in an alternative living arrangement or  
13 referral to a transitional living program established pursuant to section  
14 7 of this act or to other appropriate organizations and agencies.

15 d. When the basic center shelter has reason to believe that the  
16 youth is an abused or neglected child as defined in P.L.1974, c.119  
17 (C.9:6-8.21et seq.), the basic center shelter shall report the allegation  
18 to the division pursuant to section 3 of P.L1971, c.437 (C.9:6-8.10).  
19 A homeless youth may remain at a basic center shelter for up to 30  
20 days pending the division's disposition of any case originated pursuant  
21 to this subsection.

22 e. If a homeless youth under the age of 18 is not in the legal care  
23 or custody of the division as provided in subsection c. of this section,  
24 and a basic center shelter has not made a report to the division  
25 pursuant to subsection d. of this section, the basic center shelter shall  
26 notify a juvenile-family crisis intervention unit, established pursuant to  
27 P.L.1982, c.80 (C.2A:4A-76 et seq.), in the county of residence of the  
28 homeless youth, within 24 hours of the youth's admission to the basic  
29 center shelter, that a juvenile-family crisis exists as defined in section  
30 3 of P.L.1982, c.77 (C.2A:4A-22).

31 f. In the event that a basic center shelter notifies a juvenile-family  
32 crisis intervention unit pursuant to subsection e. of this section, the  
33 homeless youth may remain at the basic center shelter for up to 10  
34 days without the consent of the youth's parent or legal guardian.  
35 During this time, the juvenile-family crisis intervention unit and the  
36 basic center shelter shall help to reunite the youth with his parent or  
37 legal guardian. If reunification with the parent or legal guardian is not  
38 in the youth's best interest or not possible because the youth's parent  
39 or legal guardian cannot be located, the juvenile-family crisis  
40 intervention unit, in consultation with the basic center shelter, shall  
41 determine what services shall be provided to the youth. The services  
42 may include, but are not limited to, crisis intervention services and  
43 continued temporary placement in the basic center shelter for up to an  
44 additional 30 days.

45 g. In the case of a homeless youth from another state who is under  
46 the age of 18, a basic center shelter shall notify the Compact

1 Administrator of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles, as soon as  
2 practicable, but within 24 hours of the youth's admission to the basic  
3 center shelter. The Compact Administrator shall facilitate the youth's  
4 return home to his parent or legal guardian or make other suitable care  
5 arrangements for the youth.

6  
7 7. A transitional living program shall provide residential care and  
8 treatment services for up to 18 months to a homeless youth 16 to 21  
9 years of age who demonstrates the maturity to function with minimal  
10 adult supervision.

11 The program shall assist in the maintenance of a homeless youth in  
12 a living arrangement that will prepare the youth for independence and  
13 self-sufficiency through the direct provision of, or through referrals  
14 to, other organizations and agencies for services, as determined by the  
15 department's contract, which may include:

16 (1) Educational assessment and attachment to an educational  
17 program;

18 (2) Career planning, employment and life skills training;

19 (3) Job placement;

20 (4) Budgeting and money management;

21 (5) Assistance in securing housing appropriate to a homeless  
22 youth's needs and income; and

23 (6) Assistance in accessing other social services as may be  
24 appropriate.

25  
26 8. Subject to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
27 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Commissioner of Human Services shall  
28 adopt rules and regulations for the licensing by the department of  
29 organizations and agencies that provide street outreach or basic  
30 center shelter or transitional living programs for homeless youth.

31  
32 9. There is appropriated <sup>1</sup>["\$4,000,000"] \$1,000,000<sup>1</sup> from the  
33 General Fund to the Department of Human Services. The department  
34 shall contract with organizations and agencies licensed by the  
35 department pursuant to the provisions of this act, to provide street  
36 outreach or basic center shelter or transitional living programs to  
37 homeless youth.

38 Six percent of the annual appropriation to the department under  
39 this act shall be allocated to fund the department's administrative costs  
40 in implementing the provisions of this act.

41  
42 10. This act shall take effect 90 days following enactment.

43  
44  
45  
46 \_\_\_\_\_  
"New Jersey Homeless Youth Act;" appropriates \$1 million.

SENATE WOMEN'S ISSUES, CHILDREN AND FAMILY  
SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**SENATE, No. 1789**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 20, 1999

The Senate Women's Issues, Children and Family Services Committee reports favorably a committee substitute for Senate Bill No. 1789.

This committee substitute, which is designated the "New Jersey Homeless Youth Act" would require the Department of Human Services to establish and support a comprehensive program for homeless youth by contracting with organizations and agencies that provide street outreach programs or basic center shelter programs or transitional living programs to homeless youth in this State.

Under the provisions of the substitute, a street outreach program would be required to enhance the accessibility of resources to homeless youth by locating, contacting and providing services to the youth through mobile outreach. The services provided, as determined by the department's contract, may include, but are not limited to: assistance in finding temporary or short-term shelter; assistance in obtaining food; a clothing allowance; individual and group counseling in the area of violence prevention; information and referral services regarding organizations and agencies that provide support services to homeless youth; and assistance in obtaining medical care.

A basic center shelter program would be required to provide homeless youth with a 24-hour, seven-day a week, walk-in access to emergency short term-residential care. Such a program would provide the homeless youths with a stable out-of-home placement and help reunite them with their family, if family reunification is in their best interest. The services provided, as determined by the department's contract, may include, but are not limited to, the following core services: family reunification services; individual, family and group counseling; food; a clothing allowance; medical care; educational services; recreational activities; and advocacy and referral services.

The substitute would require a basic center shelter to attempt to notify the homeless youth's parent or legal guardian, within 24 hours of the youth's admission, if he is under the age of 18. The notification

would provide the homeless youth's parent or legal guardian with a description of the youth's condition and the circumstances surrounding his admission to the basic center shelter, unless there are compelling reasons not to do so. Under the provisions of the substitute, compelling reasons include, but are not limited to, circumstances in which the youth is or has been a victim of child abuse or neglect.

If a homeless youth is under the age of 18, the substitute would require the basic center shelter to notify the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) within 24 hours of the youth's admission, in order to determine if the youth is under DYFS' legal care or custody. If the youth is under DYFS' care or custody, DYFS, in consultation with the basic center shelter, would determine what services would be provided to the youth. The services may include, but are not limited to crisis intervention services, continued temporary placement in the basic shelter for up to 30 days, placement in an alternative living arrangement or referral to a transitional living program or to other appropriate organizations and agencies.

The substitute would provide that when a basic center shelter has reason to believe that the youth is an abused or neglected child, the shelter would be required to report the allegation to DYFS. The youth may remain at the basic center shelter for up to 30 days pending DYFS' disposition of the case.

In addition, the substitute would require that if a homeless youth who is under the age of 18 is not in the legal care or custody of DYFS, and a basic center shelter has not made a report to DYFS concerning an allegation of abuse or neglect, the basic center shelter shall notify a juvenile-family crisis intervention unit, within 24 hours of a homeless youth's admission, that a juvenile-family crisis exists.

The substitute would also provide that when a basic center shelter notifies a juvenile-family crisis intervention unit that a juvenile-family crisis exists, the homeless youth may remain at the basic center shelter for up to 10 days without the consent of the youth's parent or legal guardian. During this time, the juvenile-family crisis intervention unit and the basic center shelter shall help to reunite the youth with his parent or legal guardian. If reunification with the youth's parent or legal guardian is not in the youth's best interest or not possible because the youth's parent or legal guardian cannot be located, the juvenile-family crisis intervention unit, in consultation with the basic center shelter, shall determine what services would be provided to the youth. The services may include, but are not limited to, crisis intervention services and continued temporary placement in the basic center shelter for up to an additional 30 days.

With regard to a homeless youth from another state who is under the age of 18, the substitute would require the basic center shelter to contact the Compact Administrator of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles, as soon as practicable but within 24 hours of the youth's admission to the shelter. The Compact Administrator would be required to facilitate the youth's return home or make other suitable



care arrangements for the homeless youth.

Under the provisions of the substitute, a transitional living program would provide residential care and treatment services for up to 18 months to homeless youth between the ages of 16 to 21 who demonstrate the maturity to function with minimal adult supervision. This program would assist in the maintenance of homeless youth in a living arrangement that will prepare them for independence and self-sufficiency. The program may accomplish this goal through the direct provision of, or through referrals to, other organizations and agencies for services, as determined by the department's contract, which may include: educational assessment and attachment to an educational program; career planning, employment and life skills training; job placement; budgeting and money management; assistance in securing housing appropriate to a homeless youth's needs and income; and assistance in accessing other social services as may be appropriate.

The substitute grants the Commissioner of Human Services the authority to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of the substitute.

The substitute would also appropriate \$4,000,000 to the Department of Human Services to contract with organizations and agencies, licensed by the department, to provide street outreach or basic center shelter or transitional living programs to homeless youth. The substitute would also provide that 6% of the appropriation to the department shall be allocated to fund the department's administrative costs in implementing the provisions of the substitute.

# SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE, No. 1789

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 14, 1999

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1789 (SCS).

This bill, designated the "New Jersey Homeless Youth Act", would require the Department of Human Services to establish and support a comprehensive program for homeless youth by contracting with organizations and agencies that provide street outreach programs or basic center shelter programs or transitional living programs to homeless youth in this State.

**Street outreach program.** The bill requires a street outreach program to enhance the accessibility of resources to homeless youth by locating, contacting and providing services to the youth through mobile outreach. The services provided, as determined by the department's contract, may include, but are not limited to: assistance in finding temporary or short-term shelter; assistance in obtaining food; a clothing allowance; individual and group counseling in the area of violence prevention; information and referral services regarding organizations and agencies that provide support services to homeless youth; and assistance in obtaining medical care.

**Basic shelter center program. Services.** A basic center shelter program would be required to provide homeless youth with 24-hour, seven-day-a-week, walk-in access to emergency short-term residential care. Such a program would provide stable out-of-home placement and help reunite them with their family, if that is in their best interest. The services provided under the department's contract may include but are not limited to: family reunification services; individual, family and group counseling; food; clothing allowance; medical care; educational services; recreational activities; and advocacy and referral services.

*Youth under age 18: notice to family, agencies.* In the case of a homeless youth under the age of 18, the bill requires a basic center shelter to attempt to notify the youth's parent or legal guardian of the youth's admission within 24 hours. The notification would provide a description of the youth's condition and the circumstances surrounding the shelter admission, unless there are compelling reasons not to do so (e.g., a history of abuse or neglect).

The bill also requires the shelter to notify the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) within 24 hours of the admission to determine if the youth is under DYFS' legal care or custody. If so, then DYFS, in consultation with the shelter, would determine what services would be provided to the youth. The services may include, but are not limited to, crisis intervention services, continued temporary placement in the shelter for up to 30 days, placement in an alternative living arrangement, or referral to a transitional living program or to other appropriate organizations and agencies.

The bill provides that if a basic center shelter has reason to believe that the youth is an abused or neglected child, the shelter would be required to report the allegation to DYFS. The youth could remain at the shelter for up to 30 days pending DYFS' disposition of the case. If a homeless youth under the age of 18 is not in the legal care or custody of DYFS, and the shelter has not made a report to DYFS concerning an allegation of abuse or neglect, the shelter is to notify a juvenile-family crisis intervention unit, within 24 hours of the youth's admission, that a juvenile-family crisis exists. In such an event, the homeless youth could remain at the shelter for up to 10 days without the consent of the youth's parent or legal guardian. During this time, the crisis intervention unit and the shelter shall help to reunite the youth with his parent or legal guardian. If reunification is not in the youth's best interest or not possible, the crisis intervention unit, in consultation with the shelter, shall determine what services would be provided to the youth. The services may include, but are not limited to, crisis intervention services and continued temporary placement in the shelter for up to an additional 30 days.

In the case of a homeless youth under the age of 18 who is from another state, the bill requires the basic center shelter to contact the Compact Administrator of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles, as soon as practicable but within 24 hours of the youth's admission to the shelter. The Administrator would be required to facilitate the youth's return home or make other suitable care arrangements for the youth.

**Transitional living program.** Under the bill, a transitional living program would provide residential care and treatment services for up to 18 months to homeless youth between the ages of 16 to 21 who demonstrate the maturity to function with minimal adult supervision. This program would assist in the maintenance of homeless youth in a living arrangement that would prepare them for independence and self-sufficiency through either direct provision of or referrals to other organizations and agencies for services, as determined by the department's contract. The services could include: educational assessment and attachment to an educational program; career planning, employment and life skills training; job placement; budgeting and money management; assistance in securing housing appropriate to a homeless youth's needs and income; and assistance in accessing other social services as may be appropriate.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The bill appropriates \$4,000,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Human Services to contract with organizations and agencies, licensed by the department, to provide street outreach or basic center shelter or transitional living programs to homeless youth. Of the appropriation, 6% is to be allocated to fund the department's administrative costs in implementing the provisions of the legislation.

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

**SENATE, No. 1789**

with Senate Floor Amendments  
(Proposed By Senator GORMLEY)

ADOPTED: JUNE 21, 1999

This floor amendment to Senate Committee Substitute for Senate, No. 1789, reduces the appropriation allocated to the Department of Human Services to contract with organizations and agencies, licensed by the department, to provide street outreach or basic center shelter or transitional living programs to homeless youth, from \$4,000,000 to \$1,000,000.

**SENATE, No. 1789**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**208th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MARCH 22, 1999

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator WILLIAM L. GORMLEY**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Allen, Cafiero, Cardinale and Adler**

**SYNOPSIS**

"New Jersey Homeless Youth Act;" appropriates \$4 million.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/21/1999)**

S1789 GORMLEY, VITALE

2

1 AN ACT concerning homeless youth, supplementing Title 9 of the  
2 Revised Statutes and making an appropriation.

3

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

6

7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New Jersey  
8 Homeless Youth Act."

9

10 2. The Legislature finds and declares that: homeless youth are a  
11 largely invisible population; many of these children have no families  
12 and are being exploited by adults or are turning to delinquency as a  
13 way to survive on the streets; these young people are urgently in need  
14 of services which will prevent them from becoming permanently  
15 homeless; therefore, it is in the best interest of the State to establish  
16 and support a continuum of services geared specifically for homeless  
17 youth, including street outreach, basic center shelter and transitional  
18 living home programs.

19

20 3. As used in this act:

21 "Department" means the Department of Human Services

22 "Division" means the Division of Youth and Family Services in the  
23 Department of Human Services.

24 "Homeless youth" means a person 21 years of age or younger who  
25 is without shelter where appropriate care and supervision are available.

26

27 4. The department shall establish and support a comprehensive  
28 program for homeless youth in the State by contracting with  
29 community-based or Statewide programs, licensed by the department,  
30 that provide street outreach, basic center shelter and transitional living  
31 home services for homeless youth. The department shall establish  
32 licensure requirements for programs that ensure that services, as  
33 specified by this act, are provided to homeless youth in the State in an  
34 appropriate and responsible manner. The commissioner may establish  
35 such other requirements for the homeless youth programs as he deems  
36 necessary.

37

38 5. A community-based street outreach program for homeless youth  
39 shall enhance the accessibility of resources to a homeless youth by  
40 locating, contacting and providing services to the youth through  
41 mobile outreach.

42 The services provided by the street outreach program shall include,  
43 but not be limited to:

44 a. Assistance in finding temporary or short-term shelter;

45 b. Assistance in obtaining food;

46 c. A clothing allowance;

1 d. Individual and group counseling in the area of violence  
2 prevention;

3 e. Information and referral services regarding community-based  
4 organizations that provide support services to homeless youth; and

5 f. Assistance in obtaining medical care.

6

7 6. a. A basic center shelter program shall provide a homeless  
8 youth with 24-hour, seven-day a week, walk-in access to emergency,  
9 short-term residential care. The services offered by the program shall  
10 provide a homeless youth with a stable out-of-home placement and  
11 help reunite the youth with his parent or legal guardian, except in the  
12 case where family reunification is not in the youth's best interest.

13 The services provided at the basic center shelter shall include, but  
14 not be limited to:

15 (1) Family reunification services;

16 (2) Individual, family and group counseling;

17 (3) Food;

18 (4) A clothing allowance;

19 (5) Medical care;

20 (6) Educational services;

21 (7) Recreational activities; and

22 (8) Advocacy and referral services.

23 b. A homeless youth may remain at a basic center shelter for 30  
24 days without the consent of the youth's parent or legal guardian. If it  
25 appears that arrangements for the youth's return home to his parent or  
26 legal guardian or a temporary placement in an alternative living  
27 arrangement cannot be made, the youth's stay may be extended for an  
28 additional 30 days, with the written consent of the youth's parent or  
29 legal guardian if the youth is under the age of 18.

30 c. A basic center shelter shall notify the division within 24 hours of  
31 a homeless youth's admission to the center, if the basic center shelter  
32 has knowledge that the youth is in the care and custody of the division.  
33 The basic center shelter, in consultation with the division, shall  
34 determine what additional services shall be provided to the youth,  
35 including, but not limited to, crisis intervention services, temporary  
36 placement in an alternative living arrangement or referral to a  
37 transitional living home program established pursuant to section 6 of  
38 this act or to other appropriate agencies.

39 d. A basic center shelter shall notify the juvenile-family crisis  
40 intervention unit, established pursuant to P.L. 1982, c. 80 (C.2A:4A-  
41 76 et seq.), in the county of residence of the homeless youth, within 24  
42 hours of the youth's admission to the center, if the center has reason  
43 to believe that a juvenile-family crisis exists pursuant to section 3 of  
44 P.L.1982, c.77 (C.2A:4A-22). The basic center shelter, in consultation  
45 with the juvenile-family crisis intervention unit, shall determine what  
46 additional services shall be provided to the youth, including, but not



1 limited to, further crisis intervention services, temporary placement in  
2 an alternative living arrangement or referral to a transitional living  
3 home program established pursuant to section 7 of this act or to other  
4 appropriate agencies.

5 e. A basic center shelter shall attempt to notify a homeless youth's  
6 parent or legal guardian, within 24 hours of the youth's admission to  
7 the center, if the youth is under the age of 18. The notification shall  
8 include a description of the youth's physical and emotional condition  
9 and the circumstances surrounding the youth's admission to the center  
10 shelter, unless there are compelling reasons not to provide the parent  
11 or legal guardian with this information. Compelling reasons include,  
12 but are not limited to, circumstances in which the youth is or has been  
13 a victim of child abuse or neglect.

14 f. In the case of a runaway or homeless youth from another state,  
15 a basic center shelter shall notify the division, as soon as practicable,  
16 but within 24 hours of the youth's admission to the basic center  
17 shelter. The division shall assume responsibility for the youth's return  
18 home to his parent or legal guardian or for making other suitable care  
19 arrangements for the youth.

20

21 7. a. A transitional living home program shall provide residential  
22 care and treatment services to a homeless youth 16 to 21 years of age,  
23 who demonstrates the maturity to function with minimal adult  
24 supervision.

25 The program shall assist in the maintenance of a homeless youth in  
26 a living arrangement that will prepare the youth to eventually live on  
27 his own through the direct provision of or through referrals to other  
28 community-based organizations or public agencies for services in the  
29 following areas:

- 30 (1) Educational assessment;  
31 (2) Career planning, employment and life skills training;  
32 (3) Job placement;  
33 (4) Budgeting and money management; and  
34 (5) Assistance in securing housing appropriate to a homeless  
35 youth's needs and income.

36 b. The transitional living home program shall provide services to  
37 a homeless youth who has been referred to the program by a street  
38 outreach program pursuant to section 5 of this act, a basic center  
39 shelter pursuant to section 6 of this act or by the Superior Court,  
40 Chancery Division, Family Part.

41

42 8. Subject to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
43 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Commissioner of Human Services shall  
44 adopt rules and regulations for the licensing by the department of  
45 community-based or Statewide street outreach, basic center shelter  
46 and transitional living home programs for homeless youth.

1 9. There is appropriated \$4,000,000 from the General Fund to the  
2 department. The department shall contract with community-based or  
3 Statewide street outreach, basic center shelter and transitional living  
4 home programs that are licensed by the department pursuant to this act  
5 to provide services to homeless youth.

6  
7 10. This act shall take effect 90 days following enactment.  
8  
9

10 STATEMENT  
11

12 This bill, the "New Jersey Homeless Youth Act," requires the  
13 Department of Human Services to establish and support a  
14 comprehensive program for homeless youth by contracting with  
15 community-based or Statewide programs that provide street outreach,  
16 basic center shelter and transitional living home services to homeless  
17 youth in this State.

18 Under the provisions of the bill, the street outreach program shall  
19 enhance the accessibility of resources to a homeless youth by locating,  
20 contacting and providing services to the youth through community-  
21 based, mobile outreach. The services provided shall include, but not  
22 be limited to:

- 23 1. Assistance in finding temporary or short-term shelter;
- 24 2. Assistance in obtaining food;
- 25 3. A clothing allowance;
- 26 4. Individual and group counseling in the area of violence  
27 prevention;
- 28 5. Information and referral services regarding community-based  
29 organizations that provide support services to homeless youth; and
- 30 6. Assistance in obtaining medical care.

31 The basic center shelter program shall provide a homeless youth  
32 with a stable out-of home placement. The program shall also help the  
33 youth reunite with his family, if family reunification is in his best  
34 interest. The services provided by the basic center shelter program  
35 shall include:

- 36 1. Family reunification services;
- 37 2. Individual, family and group counseling;
- 38 3. Food;
- 39 4. Clothing;
- 40 5. Medical care;
- 41 6. Educational services;
- 42 7. Recreational activities; and
- 43 8. Advocacy and referral services.

44 Under the provisions of the bill, a homeless youth would be able to  
45 remain at a basic center shelter for a period of 30 days without the  
46 permission of the youth's parent or legal guardian. If it appears that

1 arrangements for the youth's return home or a temporary placement in  
2 an alternative living arrangement cannot be made, the youth's stay at  
3 the shelter may be extended for an additional 30 days, with written  
4 consent from the youth's parent or legal guardian if the youth is under  
5 the age of 18.

6 Within 24 hours of the homeless youth's admission, the basic center  
7 shelter shall notify the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS),  
8 if the basic center shelter has knowledge that the youth is under DYFS'  
9 care, or a juvenile-family crisis intervention unit, if the shelter has  
10 reason to believe a juvenile-family crisis exists pursuant to N.J.S.A.  
11 2A:4A-22. The basic center shelter shall, in consultation with DYFS  
12 or the crisis intervention unit, as appropriate, determine what  
13 additional services shall be provided to the youth, including, but not  
14 limited to, crisis intervention services, temporary placement in an  
15 alternative living arrangement or referral to a transitional living home  
16 program or to other agencies. The basic center shelter shall also  
17 attempt to notify the homeless youth's parent or legal guardian within  
18 24 hours of the youth's admission if the youth is under the age of 18.  
19 The notification shall provide the homeless youth's parent or legal  
20 guardian with a description of the youth's condition and the  
21 circumstances surrounding his admission to the basic center shelter,  
22 unless there are compelling reasons not to do so. Under the provisions  
23 of the bill, compelling reasons include, but are not limited to,  
24 circumstances in which the youth is or has been a victim of child abuse  
25 or neglect.

26 In the case of a runaway or homeless youth from another state, the  
27 basic center shelter shall contact DYFS, as soon as practicable of the  
28 youth's admission. DYFS shall then be responsible for the youth's  
29 return home or for making other suitable care arrangements for the  
30 youth.

31 The transitional living home program shall assist in the maintenance  
32 of a homeless youth 16 to 21 years of age, who demonstrates the  
33 maturity to function with minimal adult supervision, in a living  
34 arrangement that will prepare the youth to eventually live on his own.  
35 Through the direct provision of or through referrals to other  
36 community-based organizations or public agencies, the program will  
37 provide services in the following areas:

- 38 1. Educational assessment;
- 39 2. Career planning, employment and life skills training;
- 40 3. Job placement;
- 41 4. Budgeting and money management; and
- 42 5. Assistance in securing housing appropriate to a homeless youth's  
43 needs and income.

44 A homeless youth shall be referred to the program by a street  
45 outreach program, a basic center shelter or by the Superior Court,  
46 Chancery Division, Family Part.

**S1789 GORMLEY, VITALE**

7

1       The bill also requires that the Commissioner of Human Services to  
2 develop rules and regulations for the licensing by the department of  
3 the street outreach, basic center shelter and transitional living home  
4 programs.

5       Finally, the bill appropriates \$4,000,000 to the department to  
6 contract with community-based or Statewide street outreach, basic  
7 center shelter and transitional living home programs licensed by the  
8 State to provide services to homeless youth.

ASSEMBLY SENIOR ISSUES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES  
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
ASSEMBLY, No. 2985

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MAY 3, 1999

The Assembly Senior Issues and Community Services Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2985.

The Assembly Senior Issues and Community Services Committee reports favorably the Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 2985.

This committee substitute creates the "New Jersey Homeless Youth Act." The substitute would require the Department of Human Services to establish and support a comprehensive program for homeless youth by contracting with organizations and agencies that provide street outreach programs or basic center shelter programs or transitional living programs to homeless youth in this State.

Under the provisions of the substitute, a street outreach program would be required to enhance the accessibility of resources to homeless youth by locating, contacting and providing services to the youth through mobile outreach. The services provided may include, but are not limited to: assistance in finding temporary or short-term shelter; assistance in obtaining food; a clothing allowance; individual and group counseling in the area of violence prevention; information and referral services regarding organizations and agencies that provide support services to homeless youth; and assistance in obtaining medical care.

A basic center shelter program would be required to provide homeless youth with a 24-hour, seven-day a week, walk-in access to emergency short term residential care. Such a program would provide the homeless youths with a stable out-of-home placement and help reunite them with their family, if family reunification is in their best interest. The services provided may include, but are not limited to: family reunification services; individual, family and group counseling; food; a clothing allowance; medical care; educational services; recreational activities; and advocacy and referral services.

The substitute would require a basic center shelter to attempt to notify the homeless youth's parent or legal guardian, within 24 hours of the youth's admission, if he is under the age of 18. The notification

would provide the homeless youth's parent or legal guardian with a description of the youth's condition and the circumstances surrounding his admission to the basic center shelter, unless there are compelling reasons not to do so. Under the provisions of the substitute, compelling reasons include, but are not limited to, circumstances in which the youth is or has been a victim of child abuse or neglect.

If a homeless youth is under the age of 18, the substitute would require the shelter to notify the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) within 24 hours of the youth's admission, in order to determine if the youth is under DYFS' legal care or custody. If the youth is under DYFS' care or custody, DYFS in consultation with the shelter would determine what services would be provided to the youth. The services may include, but are not limited to, crisis intervention services, continued temporary placement in the basic shelter for up to 30 days, placement in an alternative living arrangement or referral to a transitional living program or to other appropriate organizations and agencies.

The substitute would provide that if, as a result of any information supplied by a homeless youth, a basic center shelter has reason to believe that the youth is an abused or neglected child, the shelter would be required to report the allegation to DYFS. The youth may remain at the shelter for up to 30 days pending DYFS' disposition of the case.

In addition, the substitute would require a basic center shelter to notify the juvenile-family crisis intervention unit, within 24 hours of a homeless youth's admission, if the shelter believes that a juvenile-family crisis exists. The youth may remain at the shelter for up to 30 days pending the intervention unit's referral of the case to the court.

The substitute would also provide that a homeless youth, who is under the age of 18, may be able to remain at a basic center shelter for no more than 30 days without the consent of the his parent or legal guardian. If it appears that arrangements for the youth's return home or a temporary placement in an alternative living arrangement cannot be made, the youth's stay at the shelter may be extended for an additional 30 days, with written consent from his parent or legal guardian.

With regard to the case of a homeless youth from another state who is under the age of 18, the substitute would require the basic center shelter to contact the Compact Administrator of the Interstate Compact on Juveniles, as soon as practicable but within 24 hours of the youth's admission to the shelter. The Compact Administrator would be required to facilitate the youth's return home or make other suitable care arrangements for the homeless.

Under the provisions of the substitute, a transitional living program would provide residential care and treatment services for up to 18 months to homeless youth between the ages of 16 to 21 who demonstrate the maturity to function with minimal adult supervision.

This program would assist in the maintenance of homeless youth in a living arrangement that will prepare them for independence and self sufficiency. The program may accomplish this goal through the direct provision of, or through referrals to other organizations and agencies for services, as determined by the department's contract, which may include: educational assessment and attachment to an educational program; career planning, employment and life skills training; job placement; budgeting and money management; assistance in securing housing appropriate to a homeless youth's needs and income; and assistance in accessing other social services as may be appropriate.

The substitute grants the Commissioner of Human Services rule making authority to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of the substitute.

The substitute would also appropriate \$4,000,000 to the Department of Human Services to contract with organizations and agencies, licensed by the department, to provide street outreach or basic center shelter or transitional living programs to homeless youth. The substitute would also provide that six percent of the annual appropriation to the department be allocated to fund the department's administrative costs in implementing the provisions of the substitute.

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR **ASSEMBLY, No. 2985**

with committee amendments

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 7, 1999

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 2985 (ACS).

Assembly Bill No. 2985 (ACS), as amended, is designated the "New Jersey Homeless Youth Act." The bill requires the Department of Human Services to establish and support a comprehensive program for homeless youth by contracting with organizations and agencies that provide street outreach programs or basic center shelter programs or transitional living programs to homeless youth in this State.

A street outreach program would be required to enhance the accessibility of resources to homeless youth by locating, contacting and providing services to the youth through mobile outreach. The services provided, as determined by the department's contract, may include, but are not limited to: assistance in finding temporary or short-term shelter; assistance in obtaining food; a clothing allowance; individual and group counseling in the area of violence prevention; information and referral services regarding organizations and agencies that provide support services to homeless youth; and assistance in obtaining medical care.

A basic center shelter program would be required to provide homeless youth with a 24-hour, seven-day a week, walk-in access to emergency short term residential care. Such a program would provide the homeless youths with a stable out-of-home placement and help reunite them with their family, if family reunification is in their best interest. The services provided, as determined by the department's contract, may include, but are not limited to, the following core services: family reunification services; individual, family and group counseling; food; a clothing allowance; medical care; educational services; recreational activities; and advocacy and referral services.

The bill requires a basic center shelter to attempt to notify the homeless youth's parent or legal guardian, within 24 hours after the youth's admission, if he is under the age of 18. The notification would



provide the homeless youth's parent or legal guardian with a description of the youth's condition and the circumstances surrounding his admission to the basic center shelter, unless there are compelling reasons not to do so. Under the provisions of the substitute, compelling reasons include, but are not limited to, circumstances in which the youth is or has been a victim of child abuse or neglect.

If a homeless youth is under the age of 18, the substitute would require the shelter to notify the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) within 24 hours after the youth's admission, in order to determine if the youth is under DYFS' legal care or custody. If the youth is under DYFS' care or custody, DYFS in consultation with the shelter, would determine what services would be provided to the youth. The services may include, but are not limited to: crisis intervention services, continued temporary placement in the basic shelter for up to 30 days, placement in an alternative living arrangement or referral to a transitional living program or to other appropriate organizations and agencies.

The bill provides that when a basic center shelter has reason to believe that the youth is an abused or neglected child, the shelter would be required to report the allegation to DYFS. The youth may remain at the shelter for up to 30 days pending DYFS' disposition of the case.

This bill as amended and reported by the committee is identical to S-1789 (SCS)(CC).

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The bill appropriates \$4,000,000 to the Department of Human Services to contract with organizations and agencies licensed by the department, to provide street outreach or basic center shelter or transitional living programs to homeless youth. The bill also provides that 6 % of the annual appropriation to the department be allocated to fund the department's administrative costs in implementing the provisions of the substitute.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:**

The committee amended the bill to require that if a homeless youth under the age of 18 is not in the legal care or custody of DYFS, and a basic center shelter has not made a report to DYFS concerning an allegation of abuse or neglect, the basic center shelter shall notify a juvenile-family crisis intervention unit, within 24 hours of a homeless youth's admission, that a juvenile-family crisis exists. When such notification is made, the homeless youth may remain at the basic center shelter for up to 10 days without the consent of the youth's parent or legal guardian. During this time, the juvenile-family crisis intervention unit and the basic center shelter shall help to reunite the youth with his parent or legal guardian. If reunification with the youth's parent or legal guardian is not in the youth's best interest or not possible because the youth's parent or legal guardian cannot be

located, the juvenile-family crisis intervention unit, in consultation with the basic center shelter, shall determine what services would be provided to the youth. The services may include, but are not limited to, crisis intervention services and continued temporary placement in the basic center shelter for up to an additional 30 days.

Committee amendments also specify that the services provided by street outreach and basic center shelter programs be determined by the department's contract with the organizations and agencies that administer those programs.

Finally, the committee adopted several technical amendments to make it identical to the Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1789, (Gormley/Vitale), which was released by the Senate Women's Issues, Children and Family Services Committee on May 20, 1999.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2985

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 18, 1999

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman KENNETH C. LEFEVRE**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Assemblyman FRANCIS J. BLEE**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

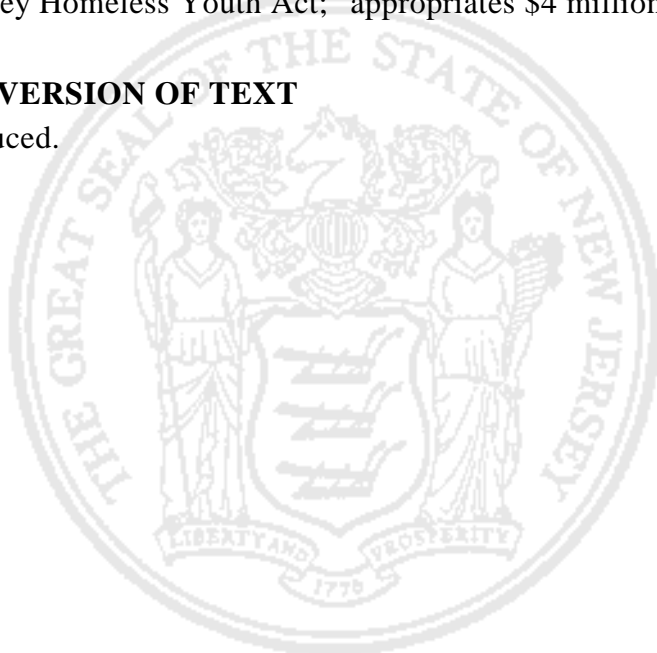
**Assemblymen Connors, Cottrell, Assemblywoman Farragher,  
Assemblyman Felice, Assemblywoman Gill, Assemblymen Gibson, Lance,  
Romano, Thompson, Zecker, Arnone, Augustine, Bagger, Conaway,  
Assemblywoman Weinberg, Assemblymen Wisniewski and Wolfe**

**SYNOPSIS**

"New Jersey Homeless Youth Act;" appropriates \$4 million.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/7/1999)

1 AN ACT concerning homeless youth, supplementing Title 9 of the  
2 Revised Statutes and making an appropriation.

3

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

6

7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New Jersey  
8 Homeless Youth Act."

9

10 2. The Legislature finds and declares that: homeless youth are a  
11 largely invisible population; many of these children have no families  
12 and are being exploited by adults or are turning to delinquency as a  
13 way to survive on the streets; these young people are urgently in need  
14 of services which will prevent them from becoming permanently  
15 homeless; therefore, it is in the best interest of the State to establish  
16 and support a continuum of services geared specifically for homeless  
17 youth, including street outreach, basic center shelter and transitional  
18 living home programs.

19

20 3. As used in this act:

21 "Department" means the Department of Human Services

22 "Division" means the Division of Youth and Family Services in the  
23 Department of Human Services.

24 "Homeless youth" means a person 21 years of age or younger who  
25 is without shelter where appropriate care and supervision are available.

26

27 4. The department shall establish and support a comprehensive  
28 program for homeless youth in the State by contracting with  
29 community-based or Statewide programs, licensed by the department,  
30 that provide street outreach, basic center shelter and transitional living  
31 home services for homeless youth. The department shall establish  
32 licensure requirements for programs that ensure that services, as  
33 specified by this act, are provided to homeless youth in the State in an  
34 appropriate and responsible manner. The commissioner may establish  
35 such other requirements for the homeless youth programs as he deems  
36 necessary.

37

38 5. A community-based street outreach program for homeless youth  
39 shall enhance the accessibility of resources to a homeless youth by  
40 locating, contacting and providing services to the youth through  
41 mobile outreach.

42 The services provided by the street outreach program shall include,  
43 but not be limited to:

44 a. Assistance in finding temporary or short-term shelter;

45 b. Assistance in obtaining food;

46 c. A clothing allowance;

1 d. Individual and group counseling in the area of violence  
2 prevention;

3 e. Information and referral services regarding community-based  
4 organizations that provide support services to homeless youth; and

5 f. Assistance in obtaining medical care.

6

7 6. a. A basic center shelter program shall provide a homeless  
8 youth with 24-hour, seven-day a week, walk-in access to emergency,  
9 short-term residential care. The services offered by the program shall  
10 provide a homeless youth with a stable out-of-home placement and  
11 help reunite the youth with his parent or legal guardian, except in the  
12 case where family reunification is not in the youth's best interest.

13 The services provided at the basic center shelter shall include, but  
14 not be limited to:

15 (1) Family reunification services;

16 (2) Individual, family and group counseling;

17 (3) Food;

18 (4) A clothing allowance;

19 (5) Medical care;

20 (6) Educational services;

21 (7) Recreational activities; and

22 (8) Advocacy and referral services.

23 b. A homeless youth may remain at a basic center shelter for 30  
24 days without the consent of the youth's parent or legal guardian. If it  
25 appears that arrangements for the youth's return home to his parent or  
26 legal guardian or a temporary placement in an alternative living  
27 arrangement cannot be made, the youth's stay may be extended for an  
28 additional 30 days, with the written consent of the youth's parent or  
29 legal guardian if the youth is under the age of 18.

30 c. A basic center shelter shall notify the division within 24 hours of  
31 a homeless youth's admission to the center, if the basic center shelter  
32 has knowledge that the youth is in the care and custody of the division.  
33 The basic center shelter, in consultation with the division, shall  
34 determine what additional services shall be provided to the youth,  
35 including, but not limited to, crisis intervention services, temporary  
36 placement in an alternative living arrangement or referral to a  
37 transitional living home program established pursuant to section 6 of  
38 this act or to other appropriate agencies.

39 d. A basic center shelter shall notify the juvenile-family crisis  
40 intervention unit, established pursuant to P.L. 1982, c. 80 (C.2A:4A-  
41 76 et seq.), in the county of residence of the homeless youth, within 24  
42 hours of the youth's admission to the center, if the center has reason  
43 to believe that a juvenile-family crisis exists pursuant to section 3 of  
44 P.L.1982, c.77 (C.2A:4A-22). The basic center shelter, in consultation  
45 with the juvenile-family crisis intervention unit, shall determine what  
46 additional services shall be provided to the youth, including, but not

1 limited to, further crisis intervention services, temporary placement in  
2 an alternative living arrangement or referral to a transitional living  
3 home program established pursuant to section 7 of this act or to other  
4 appropriate agencies.

5 e. A basic center shelter shall attempt to notify a homeless youth's  
6 parent or legal guardian, within 24 hours of the youth's admission to  
7 the center, if the youth is under the age of 18. The notification shall  
8 include a description of the youth's physical and emotional condition  
9 and the circumstances surrounding the youth's admission to the center  
10 shelter, unless there are compelling reasons not to provide the parent  
11 or legal guardian with this information. Compelling reasons include,  
12 but are not limited to, circumstances in which the youth is or has been  
13 a victim of child abuse or neglect.

14 f. In the case of a runaway or homeless youth from another state,  
15 a basic center shelter shall notify the division, as soon as practicable,  
16 but within 24 hours of the youth's admission to the basic center  
17 shelter. The division shall assume responsibility for the youth's return  
18 home to his parent or legal guardian or for making other suitable care  
19 arrangements for the youth.

20

21 7. a. A transitional living home program shall provide residential  
22 care and treatment services to a homeless youth 16 to 21 years of age,  
23 who demonstrates the maturity to function with minimal adult  
24 supervision.

25 The program shall assist in the maintenance of a homeless youth in  
26 a living arrangement that will prepare the youth to eventually live on  
27 his own through the direct provision of or through referrals to other  
28 community-based organizations or public agencies for services in the  
29 following areas:

- 30 (1) Educational assessment;  
31 (2) Career planning, employment and life skills training;  
32 (3) Job placement;  
33 (4) Budgeting and money management; and  
34 (5) Assistance in securing housing appropriate to a homeless  
35 youth's needs and income.

36 b. The transitional living home program shall provide services to  
37 a homeless youth who has been referred to the program by a street  
38 outreach program pursuant to section 5 of this act, a basic center  
39 shelter pursuant to section 6 of this act or by the Superior Court,  
40 Chancery Division, Family Part.

41

42 8. Subject to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410  
43 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the Commissioner of Human Services shall  
44 adopt rules and regulations for the licensing by the department of  
45 community-based or Statewide street outreach, basic center shelter  
46 and transitional living home programs for homeless youth.

1 9. There is appropriated \$4,000,000 from the General Fund to the  
2 department. The department shall contract with community-based or  
3 Statewide street outreach, basic center shelter and transitional living  
4 home programs that are licensed by the department pursuant to this act  
5 to provide services to homeless youth.

6  
7 10. This act shall take effect 90 days following enactment.  
8  
9

10 STATEMENT  
11

12 This bill, the "New Jersey Homeless Youth Act," requires the  
13 Department of Human Services to establish and support a  
14 comprehensive program for homeless youth by contracting with  
15 community-based or Statewide programs that provide street outreach,  
16 basic center shelter and transitional living home services to homeless  
17 youth in this State.

18 Under the provisions of the bill, the street outreach program shall  
19 enhance the accessibility of resources to a homeless youth by locating,  
20 contacting and providing services to the youth through community-  
21 based, mobile outreach. The services provided shall include, but not  
22 be limited to:

- 23 1. Assistance in finding temporary or short-term shelter;
- 24 2. Assistance in obtaining food;
- 25 3. A clothing allowance;
- 26 4. Individual and group counseling in the area of violence  
27 prevention;
- 28 5. Information and referral services regarding community-based  
29 organizations that provide support services to homeless youth; and  
30 6. Assistance in obtaining medical care.

31 The basic center shelter program shall provide a homeless youth  
32 with a stable out-of home placement. The program shall also help the  
33 youth reunite with his family, if family reunification is in his best  
34 interest. The services provided by the basic center shelter program  
35 shall include:

- 36 1. Family reunification services;
- 37 2. Individual, family and group counseling;
- 38 3. Food;
- 39 4. Clothing;
- 40 5. Medical care;
- 41 6. Educational services;
- 42 7. Recreational activities; and  
43 8. Advocacy and referral services.

44 Under the provisions of the bill, a homeless youth would be able to  
45 remain at a basic center shelter for a period of 30 days without the  
46 permission of the youth's parent or legal guardian. If it appears that

1 arrangements for the youth's return home or a temporary placement in  
2 an alternative living arrangement cannot be made, the youth's stay at  
3 the shelter may be extended for an additional 30 days, with written  
4 consent from the youth's parent or legal guardian if the youth is under  
5 the age of 18.

6 Within 24 hours of the homeless youth's admission, the basic center  
7 shelter shall notify the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS),  
8 if the basic center shelter has knowledge that the youth is under DYFS'  
9 care, or a juvenile-family crisis intervention unit, if the shelter has  
10 reason to believe a juvenile-family crisis exists pursuant to N.J.S.A.  
11 2A:4A-22. The basic center shelter shall, in consultation with DYFS  
12 or the crisis intervention unit, as appropriate, determine what  
13 additional services shall be provided to the youth, including, but not  
14 limited to, crisis intervention services, temporary placement in an  
15 alternative living arrangement or referral to a transitional living home  
16 program or to other agencies. The basic center shelter shall also  
17 attempt to notify the homeless youth's parent or legal guardian within  
18 24 hours of the youth's admission if the youth is under the age of 18.  
19 The notification shall provide the homeless youth's parent or legal  
20 guardian with a description of the youth's condition and the  
21 circumstances surrounding his admission to the basic center shelter,  
22 unless there are compelling reasons not to do so. Under the provisions  
23 of the bill, compelling reasons include, but are not limited to,  
24 circumstances in which the youth is or has been a victim of child abuse  
25 or neglect.

26 In the case of a runaway or homeless youth from another state, the  
27 basic center shelter shall contact DYFS, as soon as practicable of the  
28 youth's admission. DYFS shall then be responsible for the youth's  
29 return home or for making other suitable care arrangements for the  
30 youth.

31 The transitional living home program shall assist in the maintenance  
32 of a homeless youth 16 to 21 years of age, who demonstrates the  
33 maturity to function with minimal adult supervision, in a living  
34 arrangement that will prepare the youth to eventually live on his own.  
35 Through the direct provision of or through referrals to other  
36 community-based organizations or public agencies, the program will  
37 provide services in the following areas:

- 38 1. Educational assessment;
- 39 2. Career planning, employment and life skills training;
- 40 3. Job placement;
- 41 4. Budgeting and money management; and
- 42 5. Assistance in securing housing appropriate to a homeless youth's  
43 needs and income.

44 A homeless youth shall be referred to the program by a street  
45 outreach program, a basic center shelter or by the Superior Court,  
46 Chancery Division, Family Part.



**A2985 LEFEVRE, BLEE**

7

1       The bill also requires that the Commissioner of Human Services to  
2       develop rules and regulations for the licensing by the department of  
3       the street outreach, basic center shelter and transitional living home  
4       programs.

5       Finally, the bill appropriates \$4,000,000 to the department to  
6       contract with community-based or Statewide street outreach, basic  
7       center shelter and transitional living home programs licensed by the  
8       State to provide services to homeless youth.

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

PO BOX 004  
TRENTON, NJ 08625

CONTACT: Gene Herman  
609-777-2600

RELEASE: September 22, 1999

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

**S-1789**, the New Jersey Homeless Youth Act, sponsored by Senators William L. Gormley (R-Atlantic) and Joseph F. Vitale (D-Middlesex) and Assembly Members Kenneth C. LeFevre (R-Atlantic) and Francis J. Blee (R-Atlantic), appropriates \$1 million to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to establish and support a comprehensive program for homeless youth. The Commissioner of the DHS will develop rules and regulations for the licensing of street outreach, basic center shelters and transitional living home programs.

Street outreach will enhance the homeless youth's accessibility to resources by locating, contacting and providing services to the youth through community-based, mobile outreach. Services may include assistance in finding shelter, food, clothing, medical care and counseling.

The basic center shelter program will provide a homeless youth with 24-hour, seven-day-a-week access to a stable out-of-home placement. Services may include family reunification, counseling, food, clothing, medical care, educational services and recreation. The shelter will help reunite the family unless it is not in the youth's best interest.

The transitional living home program will provide residential care and treatment services for up to 18 months to homeless youths between the ages of 16 and 21 who demonstrate the maturity to function with minimal adult supervision. The goal is to prepare the youth for independence and self-sufficiency. The legislation also eliminates the requirement in current law that prohibits homeless youths from obtaining emergency shelter without first obtaining either a court order or a guardian's permission.

**S-160**, sponsored by Senators Joseph M. Kyrillos, Jr. (R- Middlesex/Monmouth) and Joseph A. Palaia (R-Monmouth) and Assembly Members Joseph Azzolina (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and Steve Corodemus (R-Monmouth), authorizes certain federal law enforcement officers to make arrests for violations of New Jersey law. The bill expands the list of federal law enforcement officers authorized to make arrests when serious state crimes are committed or about to be committed in their presence to include the Department of the Interior special agents, investigators, park police and park rangers and the United States postal police. The power of postal police officers is limited to offenses occurring on postal property while they are on duty.

**S-995**, sponsored by the late Senator Wynona M. Lipman (D- Essex/Union) and Senator Ronald L. Rice (D-Essex) and Assembly Member William D. Payne (D-Essex/Union), allows for the extension of property tax exemptions for certain non-profit housing corporations beyond the 35 year limit set by the 1991 Long Term Tax Exemption Law. The bill applies only to limited-dividend and non-profit housing corporations. This bill would allow a municipality to extend the term of any such tax exemption to coincide with the term of the housing corporation's mortgage financing. The mortgage duration and the

terms of any such extension shall be set forth in an agreement between the developer of the housing corporation and the affected municipality.

**S-1133**, sponsored by Senators Peter A. Inverso (R- Mercer/Middlesex) and Anthony R. Bucco (R-Morris) and Assembly Members Charlotte Vandervalk (R-Bergen), Steve Corodemus (R-Monmouth) and Neil M. Cohen (D-Union), provides a tax deduction to self-employers for 100% of the cost of health insurance. Under previous law, self-employers were treated the same as individuals could only deduct premiums in excess of 2% of their income as medical expense. This will change the tax treatment for self-employers to make it analogous to corporations. Under the law, corporations may deduct 100% of the cost of providing employee health insurance from their corporate income for the purpose of calculating the Corporate Business Tax.

**S-585**, sponsored by Senator Bernard F. Kenny, Jr. (D-Hudson) and Assembly Members Raul "Rudy" Garcia (D-Hudson) and Nicholas R. Felice (R-Bergen/Passaic), makes religious organizations, fraternal organizations, and certain educational institutions eligible for funding from the New Jersey Green Acres, Cultural Centers and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 1987, in addition to non-profit cultural centers that are currently eligible.

**S-1448**, sponsored by Senator Diane B. Allen (R-Burlington/Camden) and Assembly Members Rose Marie Heck (R-Bergen) and Jerry Green (D- Middlesex/Somerset/Union), appropriates \$95,000 to establish a permanent Council on Gender Parity in Labor and Education with the State Employment and Training Commission. The new council will help ensure that federal and state gender equity initiatives are implemented effectively in communities, schools and public agencies.

**S-1960**, sponsored by Senators Henry P. McNamara (R-Bergen/Passaic) and Robert E. Littell (R-Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris) and Assembly Members E. Scott Garrett (R-Sussex/Hunterdon/ Morris) and Guy R. Gregg (R- Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris), formalizes and makes permanent the municipal financial aid offset formula and program for the loss of property tax revenue as a result of the moratorium on the sale of watershed lands. For the last several years, the offset has been provided for through language inserted in the state annual Appropriations Act.

The amount of aid to be provided annually to every municipality where property is subject to the watershed moratorium is based on a formula of \$68.50 per acre of such lands in the municipality, to be adjusted annually by reference to the Consumer Price Index. The bill also appropriates \$3.4 million from the General Fund to the Department of Community Affairs for the purpose of providing watershed moratorium offset aid to qualifying municipalities for Fiscal Year 2000.

**SCS for A-1983 and S-1237**, sponsored by Assembly Members Francis J. Blee (R-Atlantic) and David W. Wolfe (R-Monmouth/Ocean) and Senators Wayne R. Bryant (D-Camden/Gloucester) and John J. Matheussen (R-Camden/Gloucester), creates the Higher Education Incentive Funding Program Act and appropriates \$5 million for state matching funds. The bill establishes within the Department of Treasury a program under which New Jersey's public and private institutions of higher education that receive substantial gifts of cash or marketable securities would qualify for state funds partially matching those gifts. The amount of matching funds payable would depend upon whether the gifts were endowment contributions or donations, and also upon the type of institution to which the gifts are made.

**S-1074**, sponsored by Senators Donald T. DiFrancesco (R- Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and Joseph M. Kyrillos, Jr. (R- Middlesex/Monmouth) and Assembly Members Joseph Azzolina (R- Middlesex/Monmouth) and Anthony Impreveduto (D-Bergen/Hudson, provides expanded sales and use tax exemptions for the film and video industry. Under current law, film production equipment including cameras, lighting equipment, sound recorders and film are exempt from the sales tax. This legislation expands the list to mirror those exempted in New York by exempting all products used and consumed directly and primarily in the production of a film. Newly tax exempt products include cars, lumber and supplies used in the production of a film. Tangible personal property incidental to the making of a film such as accommodations, prepared foods, and other products used by the film crew and actors and actresses would continue to be taxable.