

Legislative Update

Quarterly Summary (Q3 July - September 2008)

Governor Jon S. Corzine signed into law the following education/education related bills

P.L.2008, c.89	S1962 <i>Buono (D18); Sweeney (D3); Scutari (D22)</i> -Makes changes to PERS and TPAF concerning retirement age, eligibility, purchase of service credit; makes various changes to SHBP administration; merges Washington and Lincoln holidays for State employees in Presidents Day.
P.L.2008, c.83	A844 <i>Chivukula (D17); Rooney (R39)</i> -Allows certain local public entities to enter into contracts of up to 15 years for energy conservation or provision of renewable energy production at buildings owned by such entities.
P.L.2008, c.80	A1908 <i>Scalera (D36); Roberts (D5); Moriarty (D4)</i> -Requires DHSS and DHS to establish autism and intellectual and other developmental disabilities awareness program for certain first responders.
P.L.2008, c.72	S103 <i>Weinberg (D37); Scutari (D22); Johnson (D37)</i> -Requires local government officer to file financial disclosure statement within 30 days of taking office.
P.L.2008, c.70	A1671 <i>McHose (R24); Greenwald (D6); Voss (D38)</i> -Permits parent of twins or higher order multiples enrolled in public school to select shared or separate classroom placement of their children.
P.L.2008, c.63	S98 <i>Weinberg (D37); Vitale (D19); Vainieri Huttle (D37)</i> -Provides for gubernatorial appointment without requiring advice and consent of Senate for teenage members of Advisory Council on Adolescent Pregnancy.
P.L.2008, c.50	S754- <i>Codey (D27); Conaway (D7)</i> -"Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act."
P.L.2008, c.39	A2873- <i>Coutinho (D29); Spencer (D29); Pou (D35)</i> -Increases EDA bonding limit for State share of school facilities projects; specifies debt service for these bonds will first be payable from revenues received from gross income tax; establishes priority categories for non-SDA district projects.
P.L.2008, c.38	S1557- <i>Vitale (D19); Singer (R30); Cohen (D20)</i> - Expands NJ FamilyCare, establishes mandate for health care coverage of children, makes various reforms to individual and small employer insurance markets and certain dependent coverage; appropriates \$1 million.
P.L.2008, c.37	A2965- <i>Moriarty (D4); Wolfe (R10)</i> -Establishes Commissioner of Education as the rule-making authority under several school district accountability statutes.

P.L.2008, c.36 | A45-*Cryan (D20)*; Rumana (R40); Moriarty (D4)-Eliminates role of State Board of Education in the appeal of Commissioner of Education decisions in disputes arising under the State school laws.

The Commissioner and/or department representatives offered the following committee testimony

Monday, September 22, 2008

Assembly Education Committee Commissioner Davy testified before the committee on the following issues:

- Special Review Assessment (SRA)
- Calculation of the state's high school graduation rate; and
- The use of academic degrees from non-accredited institutions by New Jersey educators.

The committee heard also testimony from representatives of the Office of School Facilities and NJDOE on the grant program for school facilities projects for regular operating districts. Additionally, the following bills will be considered:

Friday, September 19, 2008

Commissioner Lucille Davy, DCA Commissioner Joseph Doria and Scott Weiner, SDA CEO were special guests of the NJ League of Municipalities Educational Foundation (NJLM) conference, Understanding and Implementing the New Jersey School Funding Formula, held at Middlesex Community College, 2600 Woodbridge Avenue, Edison.

NJLM in conjunction with NJDOE conducted a daylong statewide conference to provide an educational overview of the revised school funding formula to both educational and municipal leaders (Mayors, Superintendents, Business Administrators, School Board Leaders, Chief Financial Officers, etc.) to review key changes with regard to the funding formula and other related legislative budgetary initiatives including the tax levy cap law and the CORE property tax reform initiative.

In addition to both commissioners, education and municipal school funding experts from NJDOE and DCA served as presenters or panelists to help the participants understand new laws affecting school: Katie Attwood, Assistant Commissioner for Finance; Jerry Vernotica, Assistant Commissioner for Field Services; Bruce Greenfield, Executive Superintendent of Ocean County; Ellen Wolock, Director and David Joye, Budget and Policy Analyst of Office of Preschool Education; Frank LoDolce, Director, Office of School Facilities; and Scott Weiner, , NJ Schools Development Authority CEO.

NJLM is self-described as a voluntary association of all 566 municipalities, including 560 mayors and 13,000 elected and appointed officials of member municipalities, created to help communities do a better job of self-government through pooling information resources and brain power. Jun Choi, Vice-President of NJLM and Mayor, Edison Township and former executive director of NJDOE student statewide database initiative, served as emcee.