

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

SUMMARY

“DIRECT STATE SERVICES”

“DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION”

Page

43-44 The appropriations of \$13,000 for a Brush Chipper at High Point State Park and \$16,000 for a Forest Fire Attack Equipment Trailer are deleted since general appropriations for Parks and Forestry equipment are currently included in Additions, Improvements and Equipment.

“DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES”

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55 Language forgiving repayment of an overpayment of Charity Care funds to Cathedral Hospital is eliminated.

“DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES”

Page

59 Language appropriating up to \$100,000 for administrative costs associated with processing pharmaceutical rebates is eliminated. The General Assistance rebate program was not included by the Legislature; therefore, no funds are needed to administer the program.

“DEPARTMENT OF LABOR”

Page

70 Language that allows the Department of Labor to hire two additional Workers’ Compensation Judges is deleted. The Appropriations Act should not be used to expand the number of Workers’ Compensation Judges.

“GRANTS-IN-AID”

“DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT”

Page

117 Language appropriating \$1,500,000 to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority to apply to the pooling of funds to be created by the New Capital Sources Board is deleted. Venture capital is better provided by existing private sector mechanisms.

117-118 Language appropriating \$5,000,000 to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority to invest in an export finance company is reduced to \$2,000,000. This appropriation is adequate for an initial investment, and additional funding is available through an existing State-sponsored export working capital program and an export loan guarantee program offered in conjunction with participating banks.

“DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES”

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126 The \$1,885,000 appropriation for Northwest Covenant Health Systems is eliminated. This appropriation would have provided additional funding for Charity Care beyond the legislatively prescribed funding formula, which requires hospitals to document their need for, and provision of, Charity Care. Providing Charity Care payments to hospitals unable to fulfill the accountability provisions of the Charity Care legislation is neither equitable nor appropriate.

128 This language is modified to accelerate the process to require nursing homes to become eligible for Medicare reimbursements for patients who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. Provider discretion regarding the number of beds to be certified is removed in order to maximize reimbursements from Medicare.

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“DEPARTMENT OF STATE”

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- 141 The appropriation of \$2,100,000 for the New Jersey Historical Society Relocation is reduced by \$1,600,000. The remaining appropriation of \$500,000 represents a significant contribution to the relocation.

“STATE AID”

“DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS”

Page

- 147 Language related to the line item for Aid for GAAP Accounting Implementation is revised to allow the Department more flexibility in providing training.

“DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION”

Page

- 149 Language revising the funding allocation for charter schools in fiscal year 1997-98 would have required significant changes in aid to district budgets that have already been finalized.

“DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES”

Page

- 155 Language that specifies the cities which are to participate in the home visits program and language requiring Joint Budget Oversight Committee (JBOC) approval of the transfer is deleted. Listing the individual cities eligible to participate in the home visits program would preclude the Department of Human Services from including other municipalities in this program. Language requiring JBOC approval could delay the funding for the home visits program. However, the Administration is prepared to cooperate with the Legislature in providing information about this program.

“DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY”

Page

- 157 Language appropriating proceeds of taxes on fire insurance premiums for payment to the NJ Firemen’s Association and Firemen’s Home is deleted because legislation (P.L. 1997,c.41) that allows the Firemen’s Association to collect these taxes directly becomes effective July 1, 1997.
- 157 Language that would eliminate operation of this section unless legislation is enacted by a date certain is deleted in order to provide flexibility.

“CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION”

“DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION”

Page

- 165 Language requiring Joint Budget Oversight Committee (JBOC) approval for funds spent on the implementation of the Enhanced Inspection and Maintenance Program is deleted. Requiring JBOC approval in this instance may delay the progress of this project which must adhere to strict federal requirements. The Administration is prepared to cooperate with the Legislature in providing information on the establishment and operation of the program.

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“DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION”

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183 Language limiting the usage of Abbott parity dollars is eliminated. Language regarding appeals is also eliminated because such appeals are governed by established principles of law.

Respectfully,

Christine Todd Whitman
Governor

Attest:

Michael P. Torpey
Chief Counsel to the Governor