

## Legislative Summary

**New!** S2454 - Fred Madden (D-4), Paul Sarlo (D-36), Annette Quijano (D-20), Gary Schaefer (D-36), Nelson Albano (D-1), Wayne DeAngelo (D-14), Reed Gusciora (D-15)

The "New Jersey Angel Investor Tax Credit Act," revives the expired Small New Jersey-based High Technology Business Investment Tax Credit by establishing credits against corporation business and gross income taxes for investing in New Jersey emerging technology businesses. *The bill has passed both the House and the Senate and was recently sent to the Governor's desk. The SNJDC supports this legislation.*

**New!** A2853 - John Burzichelli (D-3), Matthew Milam (D-1), Nelson Albano (D-1), Paul Moriarty (D-4), Thomas Giblin (D-34)

The bill directs State and local agencies that issue permits to businesses related to economic development to streamline the process by which the permits are issued to such businesses and monitored for compliance. *The bill has passed both the House and the Senate and was recently sent to the Governor's desk.*

**New!** A3584 - Shelia Oliver (D-34), Joseph Cryan (D-20), Paul Moriarty (D-4), Gerald Green (D-22), Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-15), Ruben Ramos (D-33)

This bill creates the "Back to Work NJ Program" to provide workplace training to certain eligible unemployment insurance beneficiaries. The bill establishes the program within the Division of Unemployment and Temporary Disability Insurance to allow an eligible participant who is receiving unemployment insurance benefits pursuant to the New Jersey "unemployment compensation law," to receive workplace training from an eligible employer. *The bill has passed both the House and the Senate and was recently sent to the Governor's desk.*

**Update!** S1866 - Senator James Whelan (D-2)

In an effort to stimulate growth in Atlantic City, Senator James Whelan submitted a bill that lowers the required room minimum on new hotel and casino construction. "Through this legislation, we'll be inviting new investment to revitalize blighted areas in Atlantic City," said Senator Whelan. *The Governor recently signed the bill into law.*

**Update!** S1 - Senator Raymond Lesniak (D-20)

This bill reforms the State's affordable housing laws. If enacted, this legislation would abolish the Council on Affordable Housing established and would allow municipalities to administer their own affordable housing obligations. *The bill has passed both the House and the Senate and was recently sent to the Governor's desk. The SNJDC has testified on this matter and supports this legislation.*

**Update!** A3353 - Assemblyman Albert Coutinho (D-29)

The bill establishes the "New Jersey Closing Fund." The purpose of the fund is to stimulate economic activity by encouraging and promoting the retention and expansion of existing business and industry in the State as well as creating and attracting new business and industry to the State. *The bill has passed both the House and the Senate and was recently sent to the Governor's desk.*



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## *From the Governor's Desk*

*In first State of the State, Gov. Christie reiterates year one talking points*

Governor Chris Christie, in his first State of the State speech, said his leadership is turning the state around, and he called on the Legislature to join his pledge to reform the pension and education systems.

"The state of our state is improving, getting better every day," Christie said. "Make no mistake: New Jersey is coming back." He also previewed a push for "comprehensive tax reform," and promised to introduce an "initial installment" of his plan in his budget proposal next month.

Although he didn't provide any more details, Christie said he would not lower taxes if the state can't handle the drop in revenue.

The speech emphasized many of Christie's talking points from his first year as governor: public employee benefits are too rich, the state can't spend money it doesn't have and property taxes must be curbed.

Christie also focused on his education goals, including eliminating teacher tenure and expanding charter schools. "Over 100,000 students are trapped in nearly 200 failing schools," he said. "This awful situation is unacceptable in New Jersey."

## *In the News*

### *Measure Would Create 'Bulletin NJ'*

Legislation sponsored by Senators Donald Norcross (D-5) and Linda Greenstein (D-14) to help residents find work by creating a searchable internet database listing all available public jobs and government contracts was approved by both houses of the Legislature.

"Job seekers shouldn't have to search numerous locations to track down which public agencies are hiring," said Senator Norcross. "Especially in this economy, we should be looking to make this information as easily accessible as possible. This bill will ensure that public job listings are posted in a central location, providing residents with information about openings, as well as bidding opportunities, with just the click of a mouse."

The database - to be known as "Bulletin NJ" - would be created by the state Department of Community Affairs, in consultation with the Office of Information Technology. The site would be accessible from the DCA web-site, and would display information on employment opportunities, requests for proposals and other government procurement opportunities published by a public contracting unit.

The database would be organized primarily by the name of the contracting unit publishing the job listings or request for proposals, and would be reviewed and updated at least once per month. It would also provide an opportunity for the public to submit feedback on the database and recommendations for its improvement. It would be brought on line by July 1, under the legislation.

The measure was approved in the Senate and passed the Assembly. It now heads to the desk of Governor Chris Christie.