

SENATE COMMUNITY AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 2573

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 23, 2005

The Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 2573.

This bill would require regional, county and municipal sewerage authorities created pursuant to the "sewerage authorities law," P.L.1946, c.138 (C.40:14A-1 et seq.), and regional, county and municipal utility authorities created pursuant to the "municipal and county utilities authorities law," P.L.1957, c.183 (C.40:14B-1 et seq.), to provide credits for the connection fee or tapping fee paid for new connections to the sewer system or water system, or both, whenever the unit has been damaged by a catastrophic event during construction or refurbishing of the unit, and the damaged unit is refurbished or replaced and connected to the sewerage system or water system, or both within two years after the date of the catastrophic event.

The bill also provides that if the refurbishing of the damaged unit or the construction of the unit replacing the damaged unit expands the sewerage system use, the property owner of the refurbished unit or the newly constructed unit, as applicable, would be credited for any connection fee or tapping fee previously paid for the unit and would be assessed the difference between the credit and the connection fee or tapping fee, as applicable, for the new class of use.

The bill defines:

"Catastrophic event" as a fire, or any declared national, State or municipal emergency, or a flood, or other natural disaster or event which substantially affects or damages a building or structure, including buildings that are leased, operated or owned by a municipality or a school district; and

"unit" as any publicly or privately owned real property that is a building or part of a building that is connected to, or, after construction or refurbishing, is to be connected to, a sewerage system, and shall include, but shall not be limited to, any building or part of a building leased, operated, or owned by a municipality or a school district.