

SENATE COMMUNITY AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3017

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 7, 2010

The Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee reports without recommendation and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3017.

This bill, as amended by the committee, would require the State Treasurer to prepare a report detailing various regional impacts caused by the conversion of federal military housing to civilian housing at the Earle Naval Weapons Station located in parts of Colts Neck Township and Middletown Township in Monmouth County. Specifically, the report would examine the economic impact of the military to civilian housing conversion on the local county, municipal, and school district taxpayers, with a cost benefit analysis of the additional housing units related to any increased school district and municipal services costs; the security impact on surrounding municipalities of housing civilians on a military base; and the increased school district and municipal costs that will be required to adequately address any anticipated increased infrastructure requirements.

The bill would require the State Treasurer to file the report with the Governor and the Legislature on or before the first day of the seventh month following the bill's enactment and to distribute copies of the report to the Departments of Education, Environmental Protection and Transportation, and impacted local school and government officials so that these policy makers have sufficient information to properly plan for the conversion.

During the period of time that the report is being prepared, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) would be prohibited from issuing any permits or approving any plans associated with the housing conversion. After the report is issued, the decisions of these departments relating to the issuance of permits and approval of plans would have to be informed by the findings of the report.

The committee amended the bill to clarify that applications to DEP and DOT pertaining to the conversion of housing at the Earle Naval Weapons Station would not be "complete" until the report is received by that department. The amendments provide that an application

pertaining to the conversion of housing at Earle, which application has been determined to be complete but has not yet been approved, conditioned or disapproved prior to the bill's effective date, would not be deemed to have been approved by operation of law. The amendments also provide that any time period set forth in a statute, including the 90-day time period specified in sections 3 and 4 of P.L.1975, c.232 (C.13:1D-31 and 13:1D-32), would be extended for a period of time determined to be necessary by the department in order for the department to take into consideration the findings of the report.

As amended, the bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4159 (1R) which was also reported by this committee this date.