

# ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### ASSEMBLY, No. 2921

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 24, 2010

The Assembly Budget Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2921.

The bill permanently extends the authorization provided under section 1 of P.L.2007, c.98 for the State registrar to collect a \$15 fee for each burial or removal, or transit permit issued. The revenues generated from this fee are used to fund operational costs associated with the New Jersey Electronic Death Registration Support System (NJ-EDRS).

Under existing law, section 1 of P.L.2007, c.98, as of August 1, 2010, the \$15 fee will revert to \$5 (the original fee under R.S.26:6-17), which will significantly reduce the amount of revenue deposited into the NJ-EDRS Fund, established pursuant to section 17 of P.L.2003, c.221, to support the EDRS. If the fees are not extended, the Department of Health and Senior Services will be unable to maintain the NJ-EDRS.

#### FISCAL IMPACT:

Without the enactment of this bill, as of August 1, 2010, the \$15 fee will revert to \$5. Although the Office of Legislative Services has no information as to the total number of burial, removal or transit permits issued by local registrars, there are more than 70,000 deaths annually. Thus, if the legislation is not enacted, the revenue available for deposit into the NJ-EDRS to support the EDRS will be reduced by \$700,000, from the current \$1.1 million in annual revenues to approximately \$350,000. Additionally, such a reduction would likely impact the amount distributed to local registrars who currently receive a portion (approximately \$70,000) of fund revenues.