

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM &
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 339

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 3, 2010

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 339.

This bill establishes the “New Jersey Commission on Government Efficiency and Cost Control” to recommend measures for efficiency and cost reduction in State government operations.

The commission would consist of 21 voting members. Twenty of its members would be residents of this State who are active or retired employees of private-sector companies and who through their performance in the private sector have demonstrated an exceptional ability to conduct business operations in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Eight of the private-sector members would be appointed by the legislative leadership of each party, and 12 would be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, but the bill provides for the legislative leadership of each party to appoint these members if the Governor does not make the appointments within 60 days following enactment. One member of the commission would be the State Comptroller, ex officio, or a designee.

Under the bill, the commission would carry out its duty by establishing several task forces. Each task force would be chaired by at least one commission member, and each would evaluate the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the operations of a specific State government department. The commission would be staffed by volunteers from private-sector companies and members of the public who are New Jersey residents, but would be entitled to avail itself of the staff and services of the Office of the State Comptroller and other State agencies, as appropriate. The bill requires the commission to also solicit input, ideas, and recommendations from current and retired State government workers, through a website and through the county-based 211 telephone system, on how to achieve greater efficiency and cost reduction in State government. The commission would also listen to testimony and receive input from experts and professionals who could significantly contribute to the work of the commission.

The members of the commission would serve without compensation and, in contrast to other commissions that may be funded through government funds, the bill requires that the work of

“New Jersey Commission on Government Efficiency and Cost Control” will not be funded by government or taxpayer dollars. The bill authorizes the commission to receive contributions from the private sector, the general public, and private foundation grants to cover the reasonable costs that may be incurred by the commission in the performance of its official duties.

The commission would issue an interim report within 12 months following initial appointment of its members, and a final report within 24 months of enactment of its enabling legislation. The commission, and its enabling legislation, would expire upon issuance of its final report to the Governor and the Legislature.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2010-2011 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.