

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 1212

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 21, 2010

Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1212 with amendments.

As amended, Senate Bill No. 1212 decreases the fees set for copies of documents in various parts of the New Jersey statutes relating to government entities, excluding the court system. The statute sections amended concern copies of certain public documents from the Office of the State Treasurer or the Board of Public Utilities, of motor vehicle accident reports, and of government records under the open public records act. The fees for copies will be up to 10 cents per page for letter size copies and up to 15 cents per page for legal size copies, except that the fees set for copies of government records under the open public records act (OPRA) are established at 5 cents per letter size page or smaller, and 7 cents per legal size page or larger.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amendments provide that a different fee reduction applies to government records requested under OPRA. The amendments also provide that access to electronic records and non-printed materials will be provided free of charge, but the public agency may charge for the actual costs of any needed supplies such as computer discs.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminate. At this time, the OLS does not have any information about how much fee revenue from document duplication requests has been collected by various entities, nor can the OLS project fee revenue because the number of requested pages and their size are unknown.