

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 1217

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 21, 2010

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 1217 (1R).

The bill requires reports and publications that are produced by the State or its agencies and submitted to the Governor, the Legislature, or the public to be made available electronically on the Internet instead of being printed in hard copy. Under the bill, individuals who are unable to access reports or publications on the Internet may request a printed copy of the documents.

The bill provides that notice of the availability of the report or publication will be distributed to the Governor or the Legislature, as the case may be. In the case of reports and publications made available to the public, an electronic copy and a print copy will be submitted to the State Librarian. If such reports or publications are printed, six copies will be submitted to the State Librarian in addition to the one electronic copy.

These provisions of the bill would not apply to the publication and distribution of the New Jersey Administrative Code and the *New Jersey Register*.

The bill further provide that all State offices, departments, commissions, committees or agencies issuing annual reports or special reports required by law to be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature, and other State publications of a general informational character, where such reports are printed and electronically produced, must file with the New Jersey State Library for purposes of permanent public access and distribution one electronic copy and six printed copies. In cases where such reports are made in electronic form only, one electronic copy and one printed copy must be submitted to the State Library for preservation and permanent reference use. The bill also requires that State officers, departments, commissions, committees and agencies must designate an individual to act as a liaison with the State Library.

The bill repeals sections of current law that: 1) require State departments to submit print publications to the State Librarian for editing and printing; 2) provide for a free copy of every publication produced by the State to be distributed to each free library and each

incorporated historical society in the State; 3) require that all official reports must be printed in the same compact style as the annual report of the State geologist for the year 1893, and 4) require the printing of all annual reports be completed in time to lay before the Legislature at its meeting in the January following the submission of such reports.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) estimates that this bill may produce an indeterminate savings to the State. Certain State costs associated with labor, supplies and materials, as well as printing, production, and postage to produce certain reports and publications in hard copy may be reduced or substantially eliminated by requiring the electronic submission and online posting of documents and information.

However, the extent and duration of the projected savings is largely unknown. The OLS does not have information regarding the printing and production costs associated with the estimated 1,200 reports and publication printed and distributed by the State and its agencies each year.

Moreover, the OLS does not have data concerning the number of reports and publications already electronically submitted. Over the last six years, certain State departments and agencies have taken steps to achieve savings by making reports and publications available online. Each State department or agency currently submitting or otherwise posting documents in an electronic format further diminishes the potential cost savings that may be achieved as a result of this bill.