

# SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 1620**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JULY 19, 2010

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 1620.

This bill establishes a crime of the fourth degree for an adult to impersonate, assume a false identity, or in any way misrepresent himself as a child under the age of 18 for the purpose of joining a youth serving organization with the intent to commit a sex offense for which registration is required under Megan's Law. Under the provisions of the bill, it also would be a crime of the fourth degree for a person age 18 or older to assist another adult in fraudulently gaining membership to a youth serving organization in order to commit a Megan's Law offense by making a false or misleading statement regarding that adult's age or identity in an oral or written application for membership to the youth serving organization.

A crime of the fourth degree is punishable by up to 18 months imprisonment, a fine of up to \$10,000, or both. The bill specifies that this crime would not merge with a conviction for any other criminal offense, and that the court is to impose separate sentences upon each violation of this section and any other criminal offense.

The committee amended the bill to require as an element of the offense that the person joining the organization have the intent to commit one of the offenses which require registration as a sex offender under Megan's Law. The committee also amended the bill to utilize the definition of "youth serving organization" existing in P.L.2009, c.139 (C.2C:7-22), which prohibits certain sex offenders from being hired by or participating in such organizations.