

FISCAL NOTE TO  
**ASSEMBLY, No. 2069**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: AUGUST 21, 1996

Assembly Bill No. 2069 of 1996 is the "Senior Citizens Protection Act." Under the bill, any person who is convicted of a crime of violence against a senior citizen, including but not limited to: murder, manslaughter, aggravated sexual assault, aggravated assault, kidnaping, and robbery on any property owned by or leased to any adult day care facility or any housing for older persons or within 1,000 feet of those areas must serve a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 80 percent of the sentence imposed or one year, whichever is greater. During that time the person would be ineligible for parole. The bill would also ban all plea bargaining in cases where the defendant commits a crime near an adult care facility or housing for older persons.

The Department of Corrections states that there are no data available to determine the number of offenses which occur against senior citizens within the vicinity of senior citizen housing facilities. Therefore, while the department would expect to see an increase in commitments as well as length of stay, it cannot estimate the actual bed space needs.

The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) states that it does not possess the data to determine the number of offenses which occur against senior citizens within the vicinity of senior citizen housing facilities. However, based on the number of sentences handed down during 1995, for the offenses set forth in this bill, it can be anticipated that about 2,599 individuals could be subjected to the additional sanctions if these offenses occurred within the prohibited area.

The Office of Legislative Services concurs and adds that the cost of incarcerating an offender in one of the State's institutions totals about \$26,000 annually. If it becomes necessary to construct additional bed space to house these offenders, the State would incur one-time capital construction costs of \$80,000 per bed.

This fiscal note has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.