

## ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 9

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 9, 1996

By Assemblymen DeCROCE and WISNIEWSKI

- 1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging the United States Congress and the  
2 Federal Aviation Administration to take immediate action to increase  
3 airport security.  
4
- 5 **WHEREAS**, Recent tragic events have reemphasized the importance of  
6 keeping our nation's airports secure, and the Assembly Transportation and  
7 Communications Committee held a public hearing on airport security  
8 matters which highlighted several areas where action should be taken to  
9 improve airport security; and
- 10 **WHEREAS**, Although the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is  
11 responsible for overseeing all security-related matters at this country's  
12 airports, responsibility for implementing airport security is fragmented  
13 among airline carriers, airport owners and operators and local police  
14 leading to a lack of uniform security procedures; and
- 15 **WHEREAS**, Airline carriers are responsible for developing and implementing  
16 security procedures and protocols such as passenger and baggage  
17 screening, employment standards for screening personnel, controlling  
18 access to airplanes, ensuring integrity of cargo and baggage, and  
19 performing security inspections of aircraft; and
- 20 **WHEREAS**, The FAA should require criminal background checks and  
21 fingerprint records for all airport and airline employees who have access to  
22 secure areas and Congress should enact legislation to provide airports and  
23 airlines with the necessary authority to conduct such background checks  
24 where airports and airlines do not currently have the authority to do so; and
- 25 **WHEREAS**, Since airport employees are critical to the effort of ensuring safer  
26 air travel, there should be uniform training requirements for all baggage  
27 handlers and security officers employed at airports, regardless of who  
28 employs them; and
- 29 **WHEREAS**, Aggressive, proactive testing of existing security systems and  
30 proactive security measures must be implemented at all airports to guard  
31 against lapses and complacency that could lead to tragedy; and
- 32 **WHEREAS**, Although the Gore Commission has recommended expanded use  
33 of bomb-sniffing dogs and the federal government has made some funds  
34 available for that purpose, that funding is so inadequate that it will provide  
35 only four bomb-sniffing dogs for the three major airports operated by the

1 Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and funding for this program  
2 must be increased; and

3 **WHEREAS**, The FAA is developing other security measures such as better  
4 screening of cargo and mail and blast-resistant containers for cargo, which  
5 measures must be implemented as soon as possible; and

6 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper and in the public interest for this  
7 House to call upon Congress and the FAA to take immediate action to  
8 improve airport security; now, therefore,

9

10 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

11

12 1. The United States Congress and the Federal Aviation Administration  
13 are urged to take immediate action to increase airport security, including:  
14 placing responsibility for development and implementation of airport security  
15 under one agency to provide for a uniform system of airport security; requiring  
16 criminal background checks and fingerprint records for all airport and airline  
17 employees who have access to secure areas; implementing uniform training  
18 requirements for all baggage handlers and security officers employed at  
19 airports, regardless of who employs them; implementing aggressive, proactive  
20 testing of existing security systems and proactive security measures; increased  
21 funding for the bomb-sniffing dog program; and speeding development and  
22 implementation of other security measures such as better screening of cargo  
23 and mail and blast-resistant containers for cargo.

24

25 2. Duly authenticated copies of this resolution, signed by the Speaker of  
26 the General Assembly and attested to by the Clerk thereof, shall be  
27 transmitted to the presiding officers of the United States Senate and House of  
28 Representatives, each member of Congress elected thereto from New Jersey  
29 and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration.

30

31

## 32 STATEMENT

33

34 This Assembly Resolution urges the United States Congress and the  
35 Federal Aviation Administration to take immediate action to increase airport  
36 security.

37 Recent tragic events have reemphasized the importance of keeping our  
38 nation's airports secure, and the Assembly Transportation and  
39 Communications Committee held a public hearing on airport security matters  
40 which highlighted several areas where action should be taken to improve  
41 airport security, including: placing responsibility for development and  
42 implementation of airport security under one agency to provide for a uniform  
43 system of airport security; requiring criminal background checks and  
44 fingerprint records for all airport and airline employees who have access to  
45 secure areas; implementing uniform training requirements for all baggage

1 handlers and security officers employed at airports, regardless of who employs  
2 them; implementing aggressive, proactive testing of existing security systems  
3 and proactive security measures; increased funding for the bomb-sniffing dog  
4 program; and speeding development and implementation of other security  
5 measures such as better screening of cargo and mail and blast-resistant  
6 containers for cargo.

7

8

9

10

11 Urges Congress and FAA to take immediate action to improve airport  
12 security.