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Masser, Michelle

From: Lashway, Lisa
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2011 9:32 AM
To: Sohl, Bill; Masser, Michelle; Tobey, Phil; Perkins, Ray
Subject: FW: I. NJLM's 2012 State Legislative Priorities II. Legislative Alert - Bills on the Governor's Desk

Lisa Lashway
Township Clerk
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973-691-0900 Ext. 7290

From: NJLM to Municipal Officials [mailto:njlm-clerks@cityconnections.com]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2011 2:13 PM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: I. NJLM's 2012 State Legislative Priorities II. Legislative Alert - Bills on the Governor's Desk

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**Municipal Clerks
for Mayors, Elected Officials
and Staff**



December 19, 2011

Re: I.NJLM's 2012 State Legislative Priorities

Dear Mayor:

Late last month I had the honor of being elected President of the State League of Municipalities. For the next twelve months I will do all I can to elevate the institution of municipal government by developing meaningful working relationships with policymakers at all levels of government.

The enclosed letter is provided to you as a service. It provides a brief summary of the League's major State Legislative Priorities for 2012: <http://www.njslom.org/legpriorities.html>

The League's Legislative staff spends a lot of time and energy working on specific bills. That's not what this letter is about, however. For this, we asked them to take a step back to better appreciate the big picture. They identified a few major areas of concerns. They have carefully analyzed these issues. Then, they boiled their analysis down to a concise summary of the challenges and opportunities before us. (A more detailed analysis of our State and Federal Legislative Priority issues can be found on our website www.njslom.com).

We hope you find this helpful, as you, yourself, evaluate State Policy proposals being tackled by New Jersey's Two Hundred and Thirteenth Legislature, over the next year.

If you would like to discuss these, or any other issues, that you would like to advance or consider during the upcoming year, please feel free to contact me, through the League office, or through League Executive Director, Bill Dressel at (609) 695-3481 ext. 122 or bdressel@njslom.com.

Thank you for all that you do for the people and for local government in our State.

Very truly yours,

Hon. Arthur Ondish
President, New Jersey League of Municipalities

Mayor, Mt. Arlington Borough

Re: II. Legislative Alert - Bills on the Governor's Desk

Dear Mayor,

This past Thursday, both the State Senate and the General Assembly held their final voting sessions for calendar year 2011. Both Houses will meet at least once more in early 2012 before the new Legislature is sworn in on January 10. At the voting sessions last week, a number of bills of interest to local governments progressed. This letter is intended to provide an overview of bills that have now passed both houses and await action by Governor Christie. **A letter will follow which highlight bills of interest that we believe will be considered in early January.**

The following bills, **supported** by the League, now await consideration by the Governor:

- **A-4373/S-3118** passed the Senate by a vote of 35-4 after previously being approved by the Assembly. This bill authorizes State oversight of municipalities in the Transitional Aid to Localities Program; appropriates \$140,500,000 to DCA for Transitional Aid to Localities and administrative costs. The Governor has publicly stated his intention to sign this bill.
- **A-359/S-1651** , the "Foreclosure Rescue Fraud Prevention Act" passed by the Senate by a vote of 37-0. It previously passed the Assembly.
- **A-4114/S-2956** passed the Senate by a vote of 36-2. This bill allows all municipalities to sell and lease unneeded public property for "urban" farming and gardening purposes.
- **A-4267/S-3078** passed the Senate 38-0, after previously being approved by the Assembly. This bill allows counties and municipalities to use open space trust funds for purchase of flood-prone properties.
- **S-1141/A-898** passed the Assembly 77-0, after previous Senate

passage. This bill permits board of fire commissioners to amend fire district budget after adoption to insert special items of revenue.

- **S-2422** passed the Assembly 53-18 and was previously approved by the Senate unanimously. This bill authorizes municipalities to adopt ordinances requiring bond or other security from landlord.

The following bills, **opposed** by the League, now await consideration by the Governor:

- **A-3992/S-2887** passed the State Senate by a vote of 23-15. This bill would allow for certain wind turbine projects to bypass the local variance process and be built be preserved farmland. **This bill has now been amended so it only impacts municipalities in Salem and Cumberland counties. However, the League maintains it opposition, and for more on this please see our Dear Mayor letters of December 2, November 22 and September 20.**
- **S-2989/A-3949** – Exempts certain collocations of wireless equipment from site plan approval. The legislation unnecessarily impedes on local discretion and unjustifiably waives notice and public hearing requirements. **A-3949/S-2989, would exempt the collocation from any site plan review, even if it proposed increasing the height of the tower by 10% and increased the footprint of the mechanical equipment compound by up to 2,500 sq. feet.**

Additionally, the League has remaining concerns with **A-2095/S-818**, which revises requirements for emergency medical services delivery. While we support the bill conceptually, we do have some additional concerns. We had asked the sponsor to consider amendments, which might better protect our volunteers from increased costs and inappropriate regulations, and allow local certification of emergency medical services.

The League has communicated its positions on these bills to the Governor's Office. We would suggest you do the same, particularly if you have any concerns with any of the above legislation. You can express your position on any of these bills by contacting the Governor's Office at 609-292-6000, by fax at 609-292-3454 or by mail at:

The Hon. Chris Christie
Governor, State of New Jersey
Statehouse, PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

If you have any questions, contact the League's Legislative Staff at 609-695-3481, ext. 112, 120 or 121.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director

*If you would like to be removed from receiving faxed advisories please contact Shirley Cade at scade@njslom.com or 609-695-3481 ext. 114 with the name of your municipality and fax number. Thank you.

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