



From: New Jersey League of Municipalities [mailto:njlm-main@cityconnections.com]

Sent: Friday, January 08, 2010 9:54 PM

To: Lashway, Lisa

Subject: NJLM - Legislation affecting municipalities and the Mayors Book Club

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Testimony of William G. Dressel, Executive Director, New Jersey State League of Municipalities before the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee January 7, 2010

The recent report of the State of New Jersey Commission of Investigation, titled *The Beat Goes On: Waste and Abuse in Local Government Employee Compensation and Benefits*, demonstrated what the League of Municipalities has long argued: the State must establish reasonable benefits standards for all government employees.

The League has lobbied for benefit and pension reform for some time. For example, the League has long argued for a statewide cap on sick leave buyouts for local government employees. Currently, sick leave buyouts at retirement for state government employees are capped at \$15,000. Both the SCI and the League agree that applying this cap at all levels, including local government, would save the taxpayers a significant amount of money. Some municipalities have been able to negotiate lower caps with some employee unions. A statutory cap would assure similar savings for taxpayers in all municipalities.

<http://www.njslom.org/testimony-Dressel-010710.html>

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Our earlier correspondence omitted important legislation that will be considered in both Houses of the Legislature on Monday.

A-4345, which the League **supports**, extends the requirement of wastewater management planning agencies to establish or update wastewater management plans, and extends existing sewer service areas and wastewater areas, until April 7, 2011. This bill is expected to be considered by the full Assembly on Monday. Its Senate companion, S-2985, is expected to be considered by the full Senate.

We would suggest contacting your representatives and ask for their support of these bills. For more on this bill, please see our [Dear Mayor letter of December 21](#).

<http://www.njslom.org/ml010810-leg-alert.html>

Recap of Thursday's Senate Committee Meetings

Dear Mayor:

As we enter into the final days of the Lame Duck session, legislation continues to move quickly. The following bills were released out of committee yesterday.

S-58

S-2986

S-3139

SCI Report "The Beat Goes On"

<http://www.njslom.org/ml010810-recap.html>

Bills on the Governor's Desk

In the first full voting sessions after the holiday break, intense Legislative action continues. Many municipal issues have moved to the forefront during this time. In this letter, we will focus **on bills that have passed both Houses and now await final consideration by the Governor.**

S-1099/A-351 – Permits nonpartisan municipal elections to be held on same day as general elections.

S-2833/A-436 - Permits price adjustments in local public contracts for asphalt cement and fuel.

S-184 - Requires Department of Children and Families to provide Safe Haven information to county and municipal agencies, social service agencies, physicians, pregnancy crisis centers, adoption agencies and colleges and universities.

S-2885/A-4089 - Makes emergency medical technician certification valid for five years.

<http://www.njslom.org/ml010810-bills.html>

Fourteen Assembly Bills on which the League has taken a position, are scheduled for final action in the Assembly on Monday. **Please contact your assembly representatives to express your position.**

For a listing of these bills, use the link below.

<http://www.njslom.org/ml010810-assembly-bills.html>

A-4261/S-3071 - Allows certain current managerial and confidential employees to unionize

We wanted to notify you of pending legislation which will have an important impact on state level collective negotiations under the New Jersey Employer-Employee Relations Act, N.J.S.A. §34:13A-3 (the "Act"). Recently, Assembly Bill 4261 passed out of Committee and is now headed to the full Assembly for a vote on Monday, January 11, 2010. Senate Bill 3071, passed out of Committee has not yet been scheduled for a vote. As introduced, the proposed legislation will revise the definitions of "managerial executive" and "confidential employee" for state employees under the Act. Inevitably, however, passage of this bill will create a precedent, which would lead to a further expansion of the definition of non-exempt public employees to reach local municipalities

<http://www.njslom.org/ml010810-unions.html>

The MAYOR'S BOOK CLUB GETS BOOST FROM HEALTHCARE INSTITUTE OF NJ

Mayor Mary Beth Jahn received a donation of books today from the HealthCare Institute of New Jersey (HINJ) and Reach Out and Read New Jersey (RORNJ). The 275 books for young children will be given to the township's Mayor's Book Club in order to promote reading skills and habits at an early age.

The Mayor's Book Club, formed under the direction of the New Jersey League of Municipalities Educational Foundation in partnership with the National League of Cities, focuses on providing young children with age-appropriate books and resources in order to promote early literacy and encourage families to create a home environment that fosters reading and learning. Neptune Township is one of seven municipalities in New

Jersey that is participating in the program. The other municipalities are Trenton, Hightstown, Hope, Mount Arlington, Jersey City and Clifton. They will be receiving donations later in the month.

<http://www.njslom.org/press-release-010810-book-club.html>

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