

# NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

*County Government with a Unified Voice*

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DECEMBER 10, 2010

### INTEREST ARBITRATION REFORM

Please find attached for your review a copy of SENATE, NO. 5/ASSEMBLY, NO. 3393 (*Sweeney D-3/Greenwald D-6*), which establishes the "last offer" as the terminal procedure for police and fire contract disputes, and imposes a cap on certain arbitration awards. *NJAC supports this legislation as a fair and significant restructuring of the interest arbitration system; and, thanks Senator Sweeney, Assemblyman Greenwald, and the Administration, for addressing our concerns with the current interest arbitration process.* Both the Senate and General Assembly will vote and likely pass the measure on December 13<sup>th</sup> and the Governor should sign it into law shortly thereafter.

### CIVIL SERVICE REFORM

Please also find attached a copy of SENATE, NO. 2391/ASSEMBLY, NO. 3590 (*Sweeney D-3/Stender D-22*), which permits collective bargaining on certain matters covered by civil service, extends the working test period and time frame for hiring certain temporary seasonal employees, and creates a title reduction task force. *NJAC supports this legislation as an important step toward streamlining the antiquated civil service system; and thanks both Senator Sweeney and Assemblywoman Stender for taking the time to discuss this issue in detail with our county officials over the past several months.* Both the Senate and General Assembly will vote on this measure on December 13<sup>th</sup> as well.

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Assembly Housing and Local Government Committee is meeting this Afternoon to once again consider SENATE, NO. 1/ASSEMBLY, NO. 3447 (*Lesniak D-20/Bateman R-16*), which reforms the procedures concerning affordable housing and abolishes the Council on Affordable Housing. Although the Committee amended the Legislation at its last meeting to require county planning boards to

review and approve the housing element of a municipality's affordable housing plan, it does not appear as if the final version of the bill will include this provision. As you may recall, NJAC and the New Jersey Association of County Planners have worked with the sponsors over the past several weeks on clarifying the appropriate role for county planning boards.

As always, thank you for your time and consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.