



Probation Association of New Jersey

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An affiliate of the American Probation and Parole Association

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To: PANJ Members
From: George P. Christie, President
Date: August 10, 2010
RE: Legislative Update/Senate Bill No. 2202

Senate Bill No. 2202 sponsored by Senator Steven Oroho was introduced on July 19, 2010. This legislation, and its Assembly companion A-3153, sponsored by Assemblyman Declan O'Scanlon, would establish a 2.0 percent cap on annual appropriations increases for certain State government spending. The measure is part of Governor Christie's "tool kit." The proposed measure will have a serious effect on all public contracts, including collective bargaining. While S-2202 has not been posted for a vote, it is likely that some parts of the Governor's "tool kit" will be voted on early this fall. Essentially, PANJ members would not get an increase greater than 2.0% in pay, which includes salary increases and increments. If passed, this bill is meant to go into effect July 1, 2011. We expect that PANJ will receive their January 2011 raises.

S-2202 comes on the heels of the enactment of the 2% property tax cap. This bill now prohibits local governments, counties and school districts from raising the property tax levy by more than 2% per year. The bill lowered the existing cap from 4% to 2% and provides exceptions ONLY for increases in health benefits costs, pension costs, debt service or capital construction.

It is clear that the legislation as currently written – with no exceptions for existing contracts – will have far reaching consequences for PANJ members and New Jersey residents.

PANJ officials have met with the bills' sponsors – Sen. Oroho and Asm. Declan O'Scanlon – to express the Association's concerns with the legislation. The sponsors have indicated to us that they will not support creating an exception for PANJ's current contract in the bill. Meetings have also been scheduled with Senate President Steve Sweeney and the Governor's Office. Please call or email the sponsors and/or your lawmakers to oppose S-2202/A-3153. Please visit the Legislative link on the PANJ site to locate your lawmakers.
<http://www.panj.org/>

We are also closely monitoring S-2206, sponsored by Senate President Sweeney, which would allow for staggered furloughs of employees. At this point, it is unclear if this bill is expected to be voted upon, thus, we will be relaying our opposition of the bill to Senate President Sweeney. Our public affairs counsel's, the Capital Impact Group and the Princeton Public Affairs Group are monitoring this bill as well as the 2.0 percent cap legislation.