

MCHOSE BILL TO ENHANCE PROBATION SERVICES ADVANCES THROUGH LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Legislation sponsored by Assemblywoman Alison Littell McHose that proposes a constitutional amendment transferring probation functions from Judiciary to the State Parole Board cleared the Law and Public Safety Committee today.

The constitutional amendment authorizes the Legislature to statutorily establish a Bureau of Probation in the State Parole Board and transfer all functions, powers, duties and responsibilities concerning probation from the Judiciary to the newly created bureau.

"A transfer to the Executive Branch empowers the Legislature to pass laws to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of probation services," said McHose, R-Sussex, Warren and Morris. "Lawmakers can augment the probation service by establishing more comprehensive training standards, creating procedures for apprehending offenders, and allowing probation officers the means to protect themselves in the most dangerous neighborhoods."

In 2001, the Legislature enacted a law to establish a "Probation Officer Community Safety Unit" consisting of at least 200 probation officers authorized to carry a firearm. The legislation also granted these officers the authority to arrest probationers and enforce the criminal laws of the State.

In 2006, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled the law unconstitutional. McHose's measure, [ACR116](#) makes the required change to the constitution to address the court's concerns.