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Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

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Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco today signed the following legislation:

A-1180, sponsored by Assembly Members Arnone (R-Monmouth) and Farragher (R-Monmouth) and Senator Schluter (R-Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer), broadens the education requirement for professional planning licensure. The bill amends the education and experience requirements necessary to take the New Jersey Professional Planners license examination. This will make requirements consistent with those for the nationally recognized American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) planner certification.

More specifically, the bill reduces by one year the number of years of professional planning experience required of persons who have a graduate or undergraduate degree in professional planning. In addition, the bill reduces from twelve to eight the number of years of professional planning experience required of a graduate from a secondary school.

Finally, the bill allows an applicant for license as a professional planner to have a graduate degree or undergraduate degree in a field other than professional planning from an accredited college or university with a minimum of four years experience in full-time planning practice.

A-2177, sponsored by Assembly Members Azzolina (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and Crecco (R-Essex/Passaic) and Senator Robertson (R-Essex/Passaic) provides a supplemental appropriation of \$150,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Military and Veteran Affairs for the New Jersey Naval Militia Joint Command (NJNMJC).

The NJNMJC is a volunteer force that provides waterborne nautical support to the State and its citizens in times of emergency such as snowstorms, hurricanes and floods. The appropriation will pay for full-time administrative personnel to support the NJNMJC and will enable the NJNMJC to obtain necessary equipment and supplies and pay for personnel recruitment and training.

A-2818, sponsored by Assemblymen Connors (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean) and Moran (R-Atlantic/Ocean) and Senator Connors (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean), permits local units to assume the outstanding debt of dissolved authorities. Currently local units must pay off all outstanding bonds and issue new bonds which significantly raises the costs to local units because of higher interest rates or loss of the tax-exempt status of the bonds. The bill also permits local units to refinance, or assume, the dissolved authority's debt to another authority serving the local units served by the dissolved authority. This will require the approval of the Local Finance Board in the Department of Community Affairs. Additionally, the bill will allow payments assumed by a local unit on bonds or other indebtedness of a dissolved authority to be deducted from the gross debt of the local unit by action of the Local Finance Board. If a local unit or authority liquidates the debt of

a dissolved authority through the mechanism of refinancing bonds, the terms for the sale of those bonds would be prescribed by the Local Finance Board.