

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

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DiFrancesco Signs Law Creating Hunger Prevention Program

*****Signs 7 other bills*****

Acting Gov. Donald T. DiFrancesco today signed legislation that creates a New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Assistance Program and allocates \$5 million for grants to food banks and other similar agencies.

S-1591, sponsored by Senators Kyrillos (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and Palaia (R-Monmouth) and Assemblymembers Azzolina (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and Thompson (R-Middlesex/Monmouth), allocates up to \$5 million in unexpended Temporary Assistance to Needy Family funds for grants to food banks and similar agencies.

The bill also establishes a New Jersey Hunger Prevention and Assistance Program in the Department of Human Services to improve the health and nutritional status of state residents in need of food assistance, supplement the efforts of emergency food programs in the state to reduce hunger, and enable families and individuals to become food secure and self-sufficient.

The Commissioner of Human Services is required by the bill to contract with Rutgers, the State University to conduct a six-pronged statewide needs assessment. The bill also establishes a 13 - member Hunger Prevention Advisory Committee within DHS to assist the commissioner in the implementation of the program.

The acting Governor also signed the following bills:

S-84, sponsored by Senator Zane (R-Salem/Cumberland/Gloucester) and Assembly members Felice (R-Bergen/Passaic) and Imprieveduto (D-Bergen/Hudson), clarifies the sexual assault statute in certain circumstances.

S-1372, sponsored by Senators Bennett (R-Monmouth) and Allen (R-Burlington/Camden) and Assemblymembers DiGaetano (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Moran (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean), revises the procedure for self-administration by school pupils of medication for asthma.

S-2097, sponsored by Senators Kyrillos (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and McNamara (R-Bergen/Passaic) and Assemblymembers Azzolina (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and Thompson (R-Middlesex/Monmouth), Expands the role of the county superintendent in pupil transportation matters and permits school districts to offer subscription busing to additional students.

A-2549, sponsored by Assemblymembers Kelly (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Cohen (D-Union) and Senator Ciesla (R-Monmouth/Ocean), permits real estate brokers, broker-salespersons and salespersons to engage in certain promotions offering free or discounted products and services.

A-2318, sponsored by Assemblymembers Charles (D-Hudson) and Lance (R-Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer) and Senators Kenny (D-Hudson) and Kyrillos (R-Middlesex/Monmouth), appropriates \$350,000 to the Division of Youth and Family Services for a grant to Hudson Cradle, a nationally recognized multi-purpose family resource and transitional residence in Jersey City that serves approximately 50 "boarder babies" annually.

A-2458, sponsored by Assemblymembers Felice (R-Bergen/Passaic) and Doria (D-Hudson) and Assemblymember Conaway (D-Burlington/Camden), provides that prompt payment and claims payment enforcement laws apply to organized delivery systems. Organized delivery systems are entities that contract with health insurance carriers to provide either comprehensive health care services or benefits or limited health care services to covered persons under the carrier's health benefits plan or policy.