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Codey: with Signing of Inspector General Bill, Accountability, Integrity and Confidence Become the Standard for State Government

(TRENTON) – Acting Governor Richard J. Codey today signed S2195 / A3676, legislation that will codify the Office of the Inspector General into law.

“Today accountability, integrity and confidence become the standard for state government,” Codey said. “By making the Inspector General a permanent institution, we take a bold step to restore the public’s confidence and ensure an honest government that uses tax dollars efficiently and appropriately. The people of New Jersey deserve no less.

“Mary Jane Cooper, our first Inspector General, has already proven how vital this role is for New Jersey,” Codey said. “Her swift, thorough investigation of the School Construction Corporation led to reforms that are making the SCC efficient and accountable.”

Codey created the Office of the Inspector General in November, by executive order. He later named Mary Jane Cooper, a veteran investigator of complex fraud cases, as New Jersey’s first Inspector General. The new legislation makes the office a permanent creation.

The Inspector General’s mandate is to root out waste, mismanagement and fraud in government spending. The Inspector General has the authority to review procurements and public contracts; receive complaints and perform investigations into state programs; conduct performance reviews to determine whether programs can be run more efficiently; and look into technology and better business practices that would save taxpayer dollars.

The bill’s primary sponsors are Senator Bernard F. Kenny (D-Hudson), Senator Nicholas Asselta (R-Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland), Senator William L. Gormley (R-Atlantic), Assembly Speaker Albio Sires (D-Hudson), Assembly Majority Leader Joseph J. Roberts (D-Camden, Gloucester), Assemblywoman Linda R. Greenstein (D-Mercer, Middlesex), Assemblyman Michael J. Panter (D-Mercer, Monmouth), Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-Mercer) and Assemblyman Jeff Van Drew (D-Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland).

The passage and signing of this legislation is another step in Codey’s continuing commitment to eliminating waste and mismanagement of taxpayer funds, and restoring the public trust in the integrity of government.

