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# Office of the Governor | This Week in New Jersey: May 03, 2019

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## Governor Murphy Signs Legislative Package to Address New Jersey's Foreclosure Crisis

Governor Phil Murphy signed a bipartisan legislative package into law that will help New Jerseyans struggling with the state's highest-in-the-nation foreclosure rate. The new laws will assist homeowners facing the prospect of foreclosure and pave the way for community revival by addressing blight. Many of the measures were recommended in a

September 2018 report by the Special Committee on Residential Foreclosures, which was created by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner.

“The foreclosure crisis has hurt our economy and jeopardized economic security of too many New Jersey families,” **said Governor Murphy**. “Our communities cannot succeed while vacant or foreclosed homes sit empty or while families live in limbo. I am proud to sign these bills into law today and get New Jersey closer to ending the foreclosure crisis.”

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## **Governor Phil Murphy Signs Emergency Assistance Legislation**

Governor Phil Murphy signed S3585 and S3586 into law, expanding state housing aid for New Jersey's most vulnerable individuals and families.

“Every New Jerseyan deserves a safe and affordable place to live,” **said Governor Murphy**. “With these new laws, we are acting on our commitment to build stronger communities and ensure that no one in New Jersey, especially the most vulnerable among us, spends a night without a place to call home. I commend the Legislature for working with me to combat these critical issues of homelessness and housing insecurity.”

“This important legislation will help protect some of our state’s most vulnerable residents from the indignity of homelessness. I commend the Legislature for their action to put this bill before Governor Murphy for his signature today,” **said Lieutenant Governor Sheila Y.**

**Oliver**, who also serves as Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs. “Coordinating the critical information, services and organizations that assist people experiencing homeless will be a

powerful, strategic force to help fight this problem in New Jersey – because one person living on the street is one too many.”

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## **Governor Murphy Visits the Google AI Lab At Princeton University And Announces Grant Opportunity For Innovation And Research Fellowship Program**

Governor Murphy announced the New Jersey Innovation and Research Fellowship Program, which will provide \$1.5 million in grants for pre- and post-Ph.D. research fellows. The announcement was made at the inaugural event for the Google Artificial Intelligence Lab at Princeton University. The program will support technological research and innovation in New Jersey, while helping Ph.D. candidates and recent doctoral degree recipients advance their research at New Jersey science and technology companies.

“Ph.D candidates and recipients contribute countless hours of research to our economy and drive the innovations that define our scientific, academic, and business communities,” **said Governor Phil Murphy.** “This grant will enable talented individuals to work at New Jersey companies, growing and strengthening our economy.”

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## **Governor Murphy Testifies Before the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in Support of the Gateway Program**

Governor Phil Murphy testified at a field roundtable of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee of the United States House of Representatives on the importance of federal support for the Gateway Program. This program of projects, which includes replacing the century-old Portal Bridge, and the construction of a new tunnel under the Hudson River, is the most urgently needed infrastructure project in the nation, with wide-ranging economic impacts. Gateway is the replacement for the ARC Tunnel Project, which was canceled in 2010 by Governor Christie. Had that project moved forward, a new cross-Hudson tunnel would have been operational today.

“My Administration is unwaveringly committed to ensuring the safe passage of the thousands of commuters crossing the Hudson daily, and any failure to complete the Gateway Program critically undermines this responsibility,” **said Governor Murphy.** “New Jersey has, and will continue to be, invested as a full partner to build Gateway, and I continue to call on the Trump Administration to join with us in this project of regional and national significance. I thank the

members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their support, and for visiting our region to help move this program forward.”

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## Governor Murphy Signs Legislation Protecting Public Access to Beaches

Governor Phil Murphy signed legislation (S1074) to protect the public’s right to access the beaches and waterfronts in New Jersey. This legislation marks the 250th bill signed into law since Governor Murphy took office in January 2018.

The bill enshrines into state law the public trust doctrine, which is a principle that establishes that the State’s tidal waters and adjacent shorelines belong to the public to be used for navigation, commerce, and recreation, including bathing, swimming, and fishing.

“New Jersey’s shoreline and coastal communities are some of our state’s greatest treasures,” **said Governor Murphy.** “By strengthening the public’s right to access our beaches, we are ensuring that all New Jersey residents and visitors can enjoy our beautiful shore this summer and for generations to come.”