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# ACTS

OF THE

**First Annual Session**

OF THE

**One Hundred and Ninety-seventh Legislature**

OF THE

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

AND

**Twenty-sixth Under the New Constitution**



**New Jersey State Library**

1976



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## REORGANIZATION PLANS

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REORGANIZATION PLAN OF THE DIVISION OF LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The Bureau of Financial Regulation and Assistance in the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs, together with all its functions, powers and duties, and the Local Finance Board in the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs, together with all its functions, powers and duties, are hereby transferred to the Department of the Treasury.

The Bureau of Financial Regulation and Assistance, as presently organized, reviews and certifies all municipal budgets, is responsible for post-audit review of municipal and county government, and provides financial guidance to local governments. The Local Finance Board approves fiscal transactions of municipalities in, or in danger of falling into, unsound fiscal condition, and has jurisdiction over municipalities which are insolvent.

Placing these local budgeting and financing functions in the Department of the Treasury will assure more effective oversight of municipal and county finance. The problems of local finance have changed to such a degree that a new organization of State oversight and advisory functions is necessary. The transfer proposed by the reorganization plan will enable the State to coordinate better its own financings with the borrowing schedules of local governments. Also a merger of governmental budgeting and financing functions will promote a greater sharing of expertise of the officials of State Government concerned with State and local finance. In addition, this proposed transfer enables the Bureau of Financial Regulation and Assistance and the Local Finance Board to work more effectively with the Division of Investment to improve local investment and debt management practices.

In accordance with the provisions of the Executive Reorganization Act of 1969, P. L. 1969, c. 203 (C. 52:14C-2), I find and declare that this transfer and reorganization is necessary:

- (1) To promote the more effective management of the Executive Branch;
- (2) To reduce expenditures and promote economy to the fullest extent practicable;

- (3) To increase the efficiency of the operations of the Executive Branch to the fullest extent practicable;
- (4) To group, coordinate, and consolidate agencies and functions of the Executive Branch, as nearly as practicable, according to major purposes;
- (5) To eliminate overlapping and duplication of effort.

All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with any of the provisions of this reorganization plan are superseded to the extent of such inconsistencies. All transfers directed by this reorganization plan shall be effective pursuant to the "State Agency Transfer Act," P. L. 1971, c. 375 (C. 52:14D-1 et seq.).

Any provisions of this plan which conflict with Federal law are null and void.

Filed February 20, 1976. /s/ BRENDAN BYRNE,  
Governor.

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#### REORGANIZATION PLAN OF THE OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE DIRECTOR

The functions, powers and duties of the Office of Civilian Defense Director are hereby transferred from the Department of Defense to the Department of Law and Public Safety.

The Office of Civilian Defense Director is directed by statute to assist the Governor in protecting the public health, safety and welfare during any emergency. To a large extent, these functions and responsibilities are also within the scope of the public safety and law enforcement responsibilities of the Department of Law and Public Safety. In emergency situations, the State Police in the Department of Law and Public Safety provide communications services and personnel to coordinate and perform rescue services throughout the State, and maintain continuing contacts with local police, fire and rescue units utilized during periods of emergency.

The placement of civil defense responsibilities within the Department of Defense has reflected the traditional concept of civil defense as preparation for possible enemy attacks. In recent years, however, civil defense's activities have been primarily confined to responding to natural disasters and other emergencies. During most emergencies, relief efforts have been undertaken by the State

Police with the assistance of county and local relief units. This proposed reorganization is intended to promote coordination of such activities, and to eliminate duplication of effort in emergency relief situations. The reorganization will also improve disaster planning, which is now conducted by the Governor's Advisory Council on Emergency Services, an officer.

In accordance with the provisions of the Executive Reorganization Act of 1969, P. L. 1969, c. 203 (C. 52:14C-2), I find and declare that this transfer and reorganization is necessary:

- (1) To promote the more effective management of the Executive Branch;
- (2) To reduce expenditures and promote economy to the fullest extent practicable;
- (3) To increase the efficiency of the operations of the Executive to the fullest extent practicable;
- (4) To group, coordinate, and consolidate agencies and functions of the Executive Branch, as nearly as may be, according to major purposes;
- (5) To reduce the number of agencies by consolidating those having similar functions under a single head; and
- (6) To eliminate overlapping and duplication of effort.

All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with any of the provisions of this reorganization plan are superseded to the extent of such inconsistencies. The civilian defense director shall continue to be appointed by the Governor pursuant to the provisions of N. J. S. A:9-35. All transfers directed by this reorganization plan shall be in accordance with the provisions of the "State Agency Transfer Act," P. L. 1971, c. 375 (C. 52:14D-1 et seq.).

Any provisions of this plan which conflict with Federal law are null and void.

/s/ BRENDAN BYRNE,  
*Governor.*

Filed July 22, 1976.

