

RESOLUTION OF THE NEW JERSEY STATE BAR ASSOCIATION

A resolution calling for the repeal of those portions of P.L. 2011, Chapter 78, an Act Concerning Public Employee Pension and Health Care Benefits, as they apply to full-time government attorneys.

WHEREAS, the New Jersey public employment retirement systems were adopted for the benefit of state, county, municipal, authority and school board employees, including attorneys integral to the judicial system in our state, such as prosecutors, public defenders, deputy attorneys general, workers compensation judges, administrative law judges, as well as other full-time attorneys in public sector positions; and

WHEREAS, the recently adopted pension and benefits legislation, P.L. 2011, Chapter 78 will increase employee contribution rates for pension and benefits, thereby reducing compensation for these attorneys, and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Bar Association believes such a reduction would have a severe impact on the ability of full-time government attorneys to continue to work in the service of the public; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey State Bar Association asserts the probable effect of this legislation would not only cause the departure of experienced attorneys, many of whom have not received salary increases for several years, but also discourage other qualified practitioners from seeking government positions; and

WHEREAS, such a result will have a negative impact on the criminal and civil justice systems, family courts as well as other important government services to the public; and

WHEREAS, this void of experience will have a more significant impact on the indigent, who are often represented by government attorneys;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that, in furtherance of a jointly held vision of a state justice system comprised in part by competent and dedicated public sector attorneys who are integral to the fair, timely and effective administration of justice in our state, the New Jersey State Bar Association calls for Governor Chris Christie and the New Jersey Legislature to repeal the provisions of P.L. 2011, Chapter 78, an Act Concerning Public Employee Pension and Health Care Benefits, in so far as it applies to full-time government attorneys.

I, Angela W. Dalton, Secretary of the New Jersey State Bar Association, do hereby certify that the above is a full, true and accurate copy of a resolution passed by the Board of Trustees on July 15, 2011.

Angela White Dalton