

ASSEMBLY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4861

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 4, 2024

The Assembly State and Local Government Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4861.

This bill requires the Department of the Treasury to establish and maintain an electronic verification system, utilizing the information it receives from State agencies pursuant to the bill, to confirm that State employees who wish to participate in the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program meet the employment qualifications for participation in and successful completion of the program. The department is required to supply State employees, as necessary, with any information and documentation necessary to assist in their application for student loan forgiveness under the program.

The bill also requires State agencies to develop standards and practices to identify State employees employed by the agency who have submitted an application for enrollment in the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program or who have not submitted such an application but may meet the employment qualifications for participation in the program, and to notify the Department of the Treasury whenever such a State employee: submits an application for enrollment in the program; completes the annual certification of employment for participation in the program; or ceases employment at the State agency.

The bill defines “State agency” as any of the principal departments in the Executive Branch of the State Government, and any division, board, bureau, office, commission, or other instrumentality within or created by such department; the Legislature of the State, and any office, board, bureau, or commission within or created by the Legislative Branch; the Judiciary of the State, and any office, board, bureau, commission, or other instrumentality within or created by the Judicial Branch of the State Government; and, to the extent consistent with law, any interstate agency to which New Jersey is a party and any

independent State authority, commission, instrumentality, or agency. For purposes of the bill, a county or municipality is not deemed an agency or instrumentality of the State. The bill defines “State employee” as an employee who is employed full-time by a State agency.