

STATEMENT TO
[Third Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 1309

with Senate Floor Amendments
(Proposed By Senator MARTIN)

ADOPTED: MAY 3, 2001

These Senate Amendments make this bill identical to Senate No, 2003 of 2000. As amended, the bill revises the existing "Right to Know" law, N.J.S.A.47:1A-1 et seq., to:

broaden the scope of accessible government records while protecting certain specified government records from disclosure;

impose new responsibilities on the custodians of government records;

create a Government Records Council in the Department of Community Affairs to mediate disputes and adjudicate complaints regarding denials of access to government records;

create a temporary privacy study commission; and

increase the penalties which may be imposed upon persons who unreasonably deny access to a government record.

The amended bill preserves existing legislative and executive privileges and grants of confidentiality, as well as exemptions to the right of access established pursuant to statute, legislative resolution, regulation; Executive Order, court rule, or federal law.