

ASSEMBLY HOMELAND SECURITY AND STATE
PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1585

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 13, 2010

The Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1585.

Assembly Bill No. 1585 clarifies the immunity from civil liability for volunteers affiliated with Citizen Corps under certain circumstances.

The bill provides that a State, county or local Office of Emergency Management may organize and deploy volunteers under the Citizen Corps program, including but not limited to Community Emergency Response Teams, Medical Reserve Corps, and other teams approved by the State Office of Emergency Management as it deems may be needed in the event of an emergency.

Citizen Corps, which was created to coordinate volunteer activities in emergency situations, is coordinated nationally by the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Under the bill, a member of Citizen Corps or a Community Emergency Response Team acting within the scope of the member's authority shall be deemed a volunteer for purposes of Chapter 9 of Appendix A, Emergency and Temporary Acts. This provision of law provides that such volunteers are not liable for any injury or death to persons or damage to property as a result of any such activity.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2010-2011 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.