

**TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

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Testimony Supporting House Bill No. 6842

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
GOVERNOR CONCERNING GENERAL GOVERNMENT.**

Senator CASSANO, Representative JUTILA and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill No. 6842, An Act Implementing the Budget Recommendations of the Governor Concerning General Government.

This bill transfers the Council on Environmental Quality to be within the Office of Legislative Management. The budget eliminates funding (\$183,042 in FY 2016 and \$184,446 in FY 2017) for the Council on Environmental Quality and assumes that the Office of Legislative Management will pay for staff and expenses within existing appropriations.

In addition, the proposed bill transfers the responsibility for licensing accountants to the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). The Board of Accountancy and the processing of new and renewal accountant licenses will be supported by existing DCP staff. The budget includes a savings of \$297,366 in FY 2016 and \$302,193 in FY 2017 related to the elimination of the Board of Accountancy staff in the Secretary of the State's office.

The contingency account that is associated with the Miscellaneous Appropriations of the Governor is being eliminated. The appropriation of \$1 is removed from the Governor's biennial budget recommendations.

The bill also allows appropriations to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for expenses associated with administration of boating and boating activities to be an expense of the Special Transportation Fund.

The statute requiring the Adjutant General to request an honor guard detail for a deceased veteran upon request of the Commander of a veteran organization or family or friends of the deceased is eliminated. Payment of \$50 per day is required to those serving on the honor guard detail. The Honor Guard detail will continue to be provided using federal funds.

I respectfully request that the committee support this bill. I would like to again thank the committee for the opportunity to submit this testimony.