



## Association of Environmental Authorities of New Jersey

Tuesday, August 14, 2018

### Governor Signs Connection Fee Bill, Closing Loophole and Allowing Charge for Increased System Use

Gov. Murphy Friday signed S1247/A2779 into law, amending the connection fee statute to explicitly allow authorities and municipal systems to charge an additional connection fee when a change in the use of an existing connection increases use of the system.

This new law closes a large loophole in the fair and equitable assessment of connection fees.



The bill had bi-partisan sponsorship in the Senate: Senators Ron Rice (D), Tom Kean (R), and Jeff Van Drew (D). On the Assembly side it was sponsored by Assemblymen Louis Greenwald (D) and Raj Mukherji (D).

The bill had passed in the previous legislative session but was vetoed by Gov. Christie.

AEA met with the New Jersey Builders Association over the last two-plus years to develop this legislation. AEA wanted to close the loophole; NJBA sought to address certain concerns of its own.

The new law allows for credits under certain circumstances when previously connected properties reconnect, and it prohibits connection fees if no new physical connection is required, or if the nature or size of the service, or number of service units is not increased.

The AEA team that worked tirelessly on this legislation was attorney Sid Weiss, of Southeast Morris County MUA, Diane Alexander, of Maraziti Falcon, Dennis Palmer, AEA Legislative Committee chair and executive director, Landis SA, and Steve Blankenship of Hamilton Township MUA. Peggy Gallos, AEA executive director, provided staff support. Steve and Diane are on the AEA board of directors; Dennis is a past president. David Smith of Princeton Public Affairs

provided key support as the bill was developed and throughout the legislative process.

"At a time when infrastructure investment, redevelopment, and asset management are a focus, passing this legislation is a big positive for AEA members," said Peggy Gallos. The new law closes a loophole and gives AEA member systems clear access to an important revenue tool."

## Save the Date

**Check In with AEA at November's Annual Conference Nov. 13-14 at Bally's**

Get on board for new ideas, new connections and renewed energy for all the challenges you face in your work. Speakers will cover cost-effective planning, risk management and best employment practices, emerging technology, and compliance with new laws and regulations. (We have invited NJDEP Commissioner Catherine McCabe, too!)

Also planned is a pre-conference breakfast for local officials focused on communicating vital messages on water and recycling. **More info and registration material coming soon!**

## Save the Dates: Commissioners' Suppers in the Fall

**AEA is planning for two commissioners' suppers this fall.** The suppers feature presentations and roundtable discussions on topics of concern to commissioners, including leadership, long-term planning, public engagement, ethics, and pay-to-play rules. A complimentary supper is served. Both commissioners and executive directors attend.

**First event:** Commissioners' Supper, Wed., Oct. 10 at 6 p.m. Hanover Sewerage Authority; 1000 Route 10; Whippany, NJ 07981. An informal event starting with a panel discussion about the role of a commissioner, followed by supper and open discussion among attendees. Free to commissioners and executive directors of AEA organizations. Registration required. More info to come soon.



**Second event:** Commissioners' Supper, Thurs., Oct. 18 at 6 p.m. Atlantic County Utilities Authority; 6700 Delilah road; Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234. An informal event starting with a panel discussion about the role of a commissioner, followed by supper and open discussion among attendees. Free to commissioners and executive directors of AEA organizations. Registration required. More info to come soon.

Ellen Gulbinsky, retired AEA executive director and currently a commissioner at Bordentown SA, is participating in the ACUA event. **Registration information is forthcoming.**

Before then, if you are interested, please [email Karen Burris](#) and let her know.

## News Links

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- Showdown: Scientists Compare Tap To Bottle, Filter

- Vernon VFW may pull up stakes over sewer fee dispute
- Baltimore council considering charter amendment to ban sale of city water system
- Bordentown City offers free lead testing
- State Goes After Polluters For Cleanup Costs

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