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### **Facts about A-2580 – the Civil Service “Opt Out” Bill**

A-2580 provides that by merely passing an ordinance, towns and counties in New Jersey can opt out of the Civil Service System. The Civil Service System meets New Jersey's constitutional mandate that public employment be based upon Merit and Fitness and wherever possible selection for public employment should be by competitive examination. The Civil Service law requires that preference for public employment be given to returning war time veterans.

Because Civil Service requires that workers are employed based upon objective criteria and protects public employment from political pressure, it has had the added benefit of preventing discrimination and patronage in most public jobs. A 20 year trend demonstrates that women and minorities and other discriminated classes have been able to take advantage of the non-discriminatory Civil Service System to gain employment and advancement in all levels of government.

The Civil Service system has protected the public by preventing new political victors from firing career public workers and replacing them with political supporters. If A-2580 should become law, it will make every public job in local and county government a patronage appointment, it will lead to greater discrimination, and it will harm returning veterans who already suffer from 16% unemployment.

Civil Service "Opt out" is a provision of Governor Christie's "tool kit" to attack public employment and public workers in New Jersey.

A-2580 is being sponsored by Assemblyman Paul Moriarity (D- 4) and Assemblyman John Burzichelli (D -3).

The bill is opposed by the AFL-CIO, public worker unions, Veterans and Civil Rights groups.