



## State of New Jersey

### STATE PAROLE BOARD

JON S. CORZINE, GOVERNOR

JOHN D'AMICO, JSC (RETIRED), CHAIRMAN

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# Media Release

For Immediate Release:

**March 15, 2007**

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## Senate Unanimously Confirms Barnes As Parole Board Chairman

Trenton, NJ—The full Senate today unanimously confirmed former Assemblyman Peter J. Barnes' nomination as Chairman of the New Jersey State Parole Board.

“The State Parole Board plays a unique role in New Jersey’s criminal justice system, having a direct impact on both the release and re-incarceration of offenders,” Barnes said. “I am going to take a close look at all of the agency’s functions, and will focus on the risks that face ex-offenders when they return to society: lack of job opportunities and education, lack of connection to family and society, and addiction and mental health issues. I thank the Governor and the Senate for this opportunity to keep contributing to the safety of New Jersey’s communities and families.”

Barnes, who resigned his Assembly post March 14, is expected to be sworn in as Chairman early next week.

Before joining the Legislature, Barnes served for more than 30 years in law enforcement. He served in the FBI from 1954 to 1980, including service at FBI Headquarters in San Francisco, Newark, New Brunswick and Piscataway. He investigated cases involving bank robberies, Soviet espionage, kidnappings, political corruption, white-collar crime and internal security matters.

Barnes later served as Director of Public Safety in the City of Edison from 1991 to 1993, where he is credited with dramatically improving the Police Department. He later served as Director of Public Safety in East Brunswick Township in 1997 and in 2005, serving both times in an unpaid capacity. Mr. Barnes also served as Director of Security for the New Jersey Devils Hockey Team from 1981 until 1995.

Barnes' career in the Assembly began in 1996. He serves as chairman of the Law and Public Safety Committee, serves on the Assembly Regulatory Oversight Committee and Human Services Committee, and serves as the Majority Whip.

He has authored several major pieces of legislation, including a landmark bill creating the New Jersey Commission to Review Criminal Sentencing; a bill establishing certain hiring preferences for the children of firefighters and law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty; legislation keeping common bomb-making materials away from terrorists; legislation giving state and local law enforcement officers more tools to investigate online sex crimes against children; and legislation requiring the licensing of Bounty Hunters in New Jersey.

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