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**Joint Statement by Assemblyman Wayne P. DeAngelo (D) 14th Legislative District
& Wayne Blanchard, President of the State Troopers Fraternal Association on the
Passage of Assembly Bill A2604 Establishing a “Blue Alert System”**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Today, the General Assembly took a step in the advancement of public safety within the State of New Jersey, by the unanimous passage of **A2604**, which will Establish a “Blue Alert System” statewide. At this time, New Jersey still remains one of only nineteen states who do not have some type of “Blue Alert System” in place in order to broadcast critical suspect information when an assault, violent crime, or homicide is committed against a police officer. Even after our own New Jersey Congressman, Bill Pascrell, Jr., sponsored legislation in 2015 establishing a “National Blue Alert System” as a result of the execution style murders of New York City Police Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu, while on patrol and in their police cruiser, New Jersey still lags behind over thirty other states without this critical public safety tool. The “Blue Alert System” started in the State of Florida in 2008 as a result of many violent crimes against police officers in that state.

The “Blue Alert System” will help apprehend the most dangerous offenders who if committing a crime against a trained and armed police officer, would undoubtedly victimize an innocent civilian. In addition, the infrastructure and technology to facilitate the “Blue Alert System” are already in place to aid in the swift establishment of a “Blue Alert System” in the State of New Jersey. The “Blue Alert System” would work identical to existing Amber and Silver Alerts and would be generated at the request of the investigating law enforcement agency. The act also provides for a partnership with participating media outlets as additional resources to broadcast suspect information in order to provide leads for law enforcement officials to swiftly apprehend a violent offender or offenders. We look forward to seeing this important piece of public safety legislation continue through the legislature and be signed into law by Governor Murphy, thus making the great State of New Jersey safer upon its enactment.