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FOR RELEASE:

March 9, 2009

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ASSEMBLY PANEL CLEARS WISNIEWSKI/CHIVUKULA BILL TO HELP SENIORS REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES & COMMUNITIES

Measure Would Exempt Homeowners 62 & Older From Building Permit Fees

(TRENTON) – The Assembly Housing and Local Government Committee released legislation Assemblymen John Wisniewski and Upendra Chivukula sponsored to permit municipalities to exempt senior homeowners from paying building permit fees for improvements to maintain or repair their home.

“This bill would encourage homeowners to spend their golden years at home by eliminating some of the fees that can be prohibitive for seniors living on limited incomes,” said Wisniewski (D-Middlesex). “We must do all that we can to help senior citizens be able to remain in their communities, neighborhoods and most importantly in the homes they have spent their lives working hard for.”

The bill (A-1026) would permit municipalities to grant an exemption from all municipal building permit fees for all homeowners aged 62 or older when they are repairing or maintaining their primary residence.

“This bill would provide municipalities with yet another tool to assist New Jersey seniors maintain their properties and stay in the communities that they call home,” said Chivukula (D-Somerset). “Senior citizens 62 and older would be able to maintain the beauty and comfort of their homes instead of having to pack-up and leave simply because they can’t afford all of the costs associated with keeping their property up to date.”

The bill was released 5-1 and now heads to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for further consideration.

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