



**For Immediate Release:**

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## **N.J. Board of Public Utilities Reminding Residents and Businesses of New Area Code taking effect in 2018**

**Trenton, N.J.** – In an effort to help educate people affected by the new 640 area code overlay in the existing 609 area code, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (Board) is circulating an educational notice, both in English and Spanish, from Neustar, Inc., the North American Numbering Plan Administrator.

The Board is reminding residents and businesses in the 609 and 856 area codes that changes will go into effect early next year that will impact the way they dial numbers on their landline phones. The new dialing procedures will begin on January 20, 2018, although for the next seven months consumers will be able to use both new and old dialing procedures. Then, beginning on August 18, 2018, they must use the new procedures.

“We know it might be a cause for concern, so we want to make sure there is a smooth transition to the new area code,” said Richard S. Mroz, Board President. “Thus, the Board and Neustar are reaching out to residents, businesses and government agencies across the area to inform all of the necessary steps to being prepared. These efforts have been ongoing with police, fire, and other emergency first responders to make sure emergency systems are prepared. It’s now time for resident and business to make any needed updates to their systems.”

The reason for the change is that beginning on September 17, 2018, new telephone lines or services in the 609 area may be given new numbers from the new 640 area code. This action is being taken to ensure a continuing supply of available phone numbers.

When the new procedures go into effect, consumers will have to dial the area code for all calls. This is the case even if a consumer is dialing to an area with the same area code. Consumers dialing either the 609 or 640 area codes from within those areas will not have to dial a one before the area code. Consumers will have to dial a one for calls to all other areas codes.

In addition, it is recommended that consumers make all appropriate changes for services, automatic dialing equipment or other types of equipment that are programmed to dial only a seven-digit number from the 609 area code. It is also recommended that consumers review their personal and business stationery, checks, advertising materials, websites, contact information, and personal or pet ID tags to ensure they have the corrected phone number.

Lastly, when all the changes take place in the first part of the new year, the price of a call, coverage area, or other rates and services will not change.

The educational notices are available on the Board's website at the following links:

English version: <http://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/telecopdfs/20171204-609-first-notice.pdf>

Spanish version: <http://www.nj.gov/bpu/pdf/telecopdfs/20171204-609-first-notice-span.pdf>

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