



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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Gov. Christie Whitman Signs Legislation

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed the following pieces of legislation:

A-2678, sponsored by Assembly Members Joseph Malone (R- Burlington/Monmouth/ Ocean) and Joe Roberts (D- Camden/Gloucester) and Senators Joe Kyrillos (R- Middlesex/Monmouth) and Bernard Kenny (D-Hudson), exempts timers on certain commercial clothes dryers from regulation by the Superintendent of Weights and Measures. The law will apply to facilities used by residents at condominiums and property association buildings.

A-2519, sponsored by Assembly Member Joe Azzolina (R- Middlesex/Monmouth), creates a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program and appropriates \$90,000 to support the program. The legislation will continue a model program created in Monmouth County in 1995. The program serves as an administrative model for the state for improving the collection of forensic evidence used to prosecute sexual assault cases and providing more passionate care for victims of sexual assault.

A-3258, sponsored by Assembly Members John Kelly (R- Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Assembly Minority Leader Joseph Doria (D-Hudson) and Senator Joseph Kyrillos (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and Bernard Kenny (D-Hudson), provides certain contributory managed care health benefits by the State Health Benefits Plan to qualified retirees enrolled in the Police and Firemen's Pension Fund, or Public Employees' Retirement System.

S-60, sponsored by Senators James Cafiero (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and John Bennett (R-Monmouth) and Assembly Members Jack Gibson (R-Atlantic/Cumberland), Nick Asselta (R-Atlantic/Cumberland), Nilsa Cruz-Perez (D- Camden/Gloucester) and Joe Roberts (D-Camden/Gloucester), provides that the area around a housing project, public park or public building, defined as a museum or library, shall be designated as a drug free zone. The bill creates a new crime of the second degree applicable to persons who distribute, dispense or possess with the intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance within 500 feet of the specified locations. A crime of the second degree is punishable by a term of imprisonment between five and ten years, a fine of up to \$100,000 or both.

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