

Governor Chris Christie Signs Bills To Expand Substance Abuse Recovery Efforts

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Tags: [Addiction Taskforce](#)

Governor Christie Also Takes Action On Other Pending Legislation

Trenton, NJ – Affirming the administration's commitment to helping those impacted by drug abuse and addiction reclaim their lives, Governor Chris Christie has signed measures to further assist the treatment and recovery process.

"We remain firmly committed to confronting the stigma of drug abuse and addiction in the Garden State," said Governor Christie. "The legislation I have signed continues our efforts on these important fronts by providing a substance abuse housing recovery program for impacted students at our public colleges and universities as well as allowing medication-assisted treatment as part of our larger drug court treatment programs. These measures are another bold step to help people reclaim their lives and I want to thank Senator Vitale for his advocacy on these issues."

S-2377/A-3719 (Senators Barnes, Vitale/Assemblymembers Pinkin, Mukherji) requires four-year public colleges and universities to establish a substance abuse recovery housing program within four years. The college may designate a floor, wing, or other area within a dormitory for the program, rather than an entire dorm. The legislation applies to Rutgers New Brunswick, Ramapo College, The College of New Jersey, Montclair State University, Rowan University, and Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. The Rutgers New Brunswick campus already has implemented a similar policy. Additionally, in December, the College of New Jersey received grant funding to establish a recovery housing program.

"New Jersey created the nation's first college-based recovery housing programs and they have been a great success. Now, with the Governor's signature, many more New Jersey college students in recovery will have a much greater opportunity to maintain their sobriety and to succeed in school and in life," said Senator Joseph F. Vitale.

The second bill, S-2381/A-3723 (Senators Lesniak, Vitale/Assemblymembers Conaway, Mukherjee, Sumter, and Jimenez), allows for the completion of a special probation drug court program with use of medication-assisted treatment (MAT). The legislation further clarifies that any urine test for drug or alcohol use conducted in the course of the drug court program that shows a positive result for an individual using medication-assisted treatment would not constitute a program violation unless the positive test result is for substances unrelated to the individual's MAT. Through this bill, the treatment provider rather than a judge can now decide whether narcotic-based treatment should be permitted for convicted offenders who have been admitted to the Drug Court program for drug abuse.

"Medication assisted treatment for Drug Court attendees, like all other clinical decisions made by a provider for their patient, is a critical component in a person's treatment and recovery plan. I thank the Governor for his support of this legislation and his continued leadership and support of Drug Court programs," Vitale added.

The Governor also took the following action on other pending legislation:

BILL SIGNINGS:

S-122/A-4149 (A.R. Bucco, Addiego/Angelini, Simon, Vainieri Huttle, Wimberly) – Expands number of safe havens for leaving newborn infants

SCS for S-573/ACS for A-2443 (Smith, Sweeney/Burzichelli, Space, McHose) – Establishes apprentice firearm hunting license and apprentice bow and arrow license

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S-685/A-4306 (Lesniak, Whelan/Burzichelli, O'Scanlon) – Reduces number of voters for whom person can serve as messenger; limits to three number of voted mail-in ballots transmittable by bearer; modifies conviction standard under vote by mail law

S-736/ACS for A-3037, 2547, 3596, 2422 (T. Kean, Lesniak/Andrzejczak, Mukherji, Munoz, Lagana, Garcia, Jimenez, Dancer, Webber) – Establishes crimes of dog fighting and leader of a dog fighting network, and updates crime of animal fighting; amends RICO concerning dog fighting

S-756/A-3151 (Sarlo/Prieto, Jimenez) – Creates sporting facility license governing sale of alcoholic beverages under certain circumstances

S-1760/A-4212 (Allen, Ruiz, Turner/Vainieri Huttle, Angelini, Jasey) – Recognizes American Sign Language as a world language for meeting high school graduation requirements

S-1813/A-3123 (Whelan, Oroho/Burzichelli, Eustace, Andrzejczak, Mazzeo, Webber) – Requires each State agency to review permits issued by agency and make necessary changes to expedite and facilitate permitting

S-2003/ACS for A-4299 (Pou/Sumter, Mainor, Wimberly, Rodriguez-Gregg) – Makes certain reforms to juvenile justice system

S-2109/A-3344 (Oroho, O'Toole/McHose, Space) – Clarifies that county sheriff may simultaneously hold position of emergency management coordinator

S-2165/A-4374 (Cunningham, Pou/Sumter, Jasey) – Requires Secretary of Higher Education to adopt new comprehensive master plan within six months and every seven years thereafter

S-2377/A-3719 (Barnes, Vitale/Pinkin, Mukherji) – Directs certain four-year public institutions of higher education to establish substance abuse recovery housing program

SCS for S-2381/ACS for A-3723 (Lesniak, Vitale/Conaway, Mukherji, Sumter, Jimenez) – Permits successful completion of special probation drug court program notwithstanding use of medication-assisted treatment

S-2420/A-3838 (Smith, Bateman/McKeon, Eustace, Gusciora, Benson) – Increases electric power net metering capacity threshold to 2.9 percent of total annual kilowatt-hours sold in State

S-2454/A-3791 (Van Drew, Oroho/Stender, Auth, Andrzejczak, Clifton, Eustace, Garcia) – Streamlines responsibilities of Division of Local Government Services and local governments; designated as the Division of Local Government Services Modernization and Local Mandate Relief Act of 2015

S-2484/A-3845 (Codey, Turner/Jasey, Benson, Vainieri Huttle, McKeon) – Requires DOE to conduct study on options and benefits of instituting later school start time in middle school and high school

S-2508/A-3798 (Oroho, Whelan/McHose, Space) – Authorizes certain county veteran identification cards to serve as proof of status for veteran designation on driver's license or identification card

S-2559/A-4016 (Sweeney, Weinberg, O'Toole/Lagana, Mazzeo, Mosquera, Vainieri Huttle) – Removes presumption of nonimprisonment in certain assault cases involving domestic violence victims; expands criminal coercion statute; revises Pretrial Intervention procedures in certain criminal cases

SCS for S-2567/AS for A-4025 (Sweeney, Oroho, Smith, Greenstein, Thompson/Mazzeo, Andrzejczak, Space, McHose, Pinkin) – Creates "Fishing Buddy License"

S-2583/A-3836 (Allen, Bateman/Coughlin, Webber, Pinkin, Wilson, A.M. Bucco, Mukherji) – Upgrades simple assault to aggravated assault if committed against certain law enforcement officers and employees because of job status

S-2599/A-4121 (Bateman, Smith/Spencer, Schepisi) – Provides certain definitions for biofuels under "Motor Fuel Tax Act"

S-2825/A-4316 (Sweeney, Greenstein/Mazzeo) – Increases efficiency and transparency in distribution of Superstorm Sandy aid money

S-2995/A-3959 (Gordon/Eustace, Johnson, Caride, Vainieri Huttle) – Revises requirements for establishment of central municipal courts

S-3023/A-4558 (Ruiz, Oroho/McKeon, Spencer, Wimberly) – Appropriates \$4,750,000 from various Green Acres funds for grants to certain nonprofit entities to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes

SJR-17/AJR-79 (Beck, T. Kean/Angelini, Vainieri Huttle, McKeon, Mosquera, Pinkin, Coughlin, Wimberly) – Designates September of each year as "Hunger Action Month" in New Jersey

SJR-40/AJR-44 (Beach, Doherty/Wilson, McHose, Mazzeo, Tucker, DeAngelo) – Designates September as "Gold Star Mothers Appreciation Month"

SJR-60/AJR-83 (Beach/DeAngelo, Space) – Designates October of each year as "Lineman Appreciation Month"

A-4559/S-3022 (McKeon, Spencer, Wimberly/Codey, Doherty) – Appropriates \$88,592,361 from "Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund" and various Green Acres bond funds for local government open space acquisition and park development projects

BILLS VETOED:

S-300/A-4119 (Rice, Greenstein/Jasey, Quijano, DeCroce, Sumter, Wimberly) – CONDITIONAL – Establishes "New Jersey Out-of-School Time Advisory Commission" to review before-school, after-school, and summer programs

S-1195/A-2659 (Vitale, Allen, Weinberg/Vainieri Huttie, Gusciora, Jasey, Mosquera, McKeon) – ABSOLUTE - Revises procedure for issuance of amended birth certificate for person who has undergone change in sex

S-1593/A-213 (Turner, Ruiz/Gusciora, Eustace, Jasey, Quijano, Wimberly, Muoio) – ABSOLUTE – Establishes "Police Officer, Firefighter, Public School Teacher, Corrections Officer, and Sanitation Worker Home-buyer Assistance Act"; appropriates \$5 million

S-1621/A-2926 (Sweeney, Barnes/Lagana, Coughlin, Mosquera, Webber, Pinkin, Danielsen) – CONDITIONAL – Gives priority in training programs to long-term unemployed

S-1857/A-2699 (Codey, Turner/Vainieri Huttie, Jasey, Caputo, Wimberly) – CONDITIONAL – Establishes measures to deter steroid use among students; appropriates \$45,000 to DOE for New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association testing of student-athletes for steroids and other performance enhancing substances

S-2049/A-3635 (Rice/Tucker, Caputo) – ABSOLUTE – Requires chairs of certain ward political party committees to have same rights and responsibilities as chairs of municipal political party committees; specifies certain cities not required to have municipal chairs

S-2058/A-3738 (Lesniak/Diegnan, Sumter) – CONDITIONAL – Authorizes establishment of three pilot recovery alternative high schools that provide high school education and substance dependency plan of recovery to test the effectiveness of this model

S-2360/A-3593 (Madden, Holzapfel/Johnson, Lagana, Bramnick, Danielsen, Wimberly, Jimenez) – CONDITIONAL – Requires notification of local law enforcement prior to expungement of certain mental health records of prospective firearms purchasers

S-2489/ACS for A-3859 (Sweeney, Whelan, Oroho/Greenwald, Coughlin, Bramnick, Singleton, Rible, Lagana) - CONDITIONAL – Permits public-private partnership agreements for certain building and highway infrastructure projects; provides for EDA oversight

S-2784/A-3856 (Van Drew, Whelan/Andrzejczak, Johnson) – CONDITIONAL – Provides maximum sales and use tax imposition amount for sales and uses of boats and vessels; establishes grace period for imposition of use tax on certain boats and vessels used by resident purchasers

S-2787/A-4273 (Sweeney/Singleton, Burzichelli, Giblin, Wilson, Prieto, Wimberly) – CONDITIONAL – Establishes vocational training pilot program in DOC; provides for inmate compensation for education and workforce training participation

S-3100/A-4605 (Gordon, Greenstein/Wimberly, Lagana, Singleton, Mazzeo) – ABSOLUTE – Requires State to pay its pension contributions on quarterly basis by August 1, November 1, February 1 and May 1 of each year

S-3107/A-4606 (Sweeney, Greenstein/Prieto, Singleton) – ABSOLUTE – Makes FY 2015 supplemental State appropriations totaling \$300,000,000 for prepayment of portion of FY 2016 employer contributions to State-administered public employee defined benefit retirement systems

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Press Contact:
Brian Murray
Nicole Sizemore
609-777-2600



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Office of the Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625
609-292-6000