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NEWS RELEASE

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Acting Governor Don DiFrancesco Signs Legislation

Senate President Don DiFrancesco, serving as acting governor, today signed two pieces of legislation. Senator DiFrancesco enacted a law that allows for stiffer penalties for repeat drunk driving offenders with out-of-state records and created a 15-member panel to select the New Jersey state commemorative coin design.

The Senate President signed A-932, sponsored by Assembly Members Paul Kramer and Barbara Wright (R-Mercer/Middlesex) and Senator Joseph Bubba (R-Essex/Passaic), which recognizes all out-of-state DWI convictions as prior convictions for penalty computation purposes. The law will enable New Jersey courts to impose stiffer penalties on repeat DWI offenders who have been previously convicted on DWI charges in other states.

"I cannot think of a more timely measure to enact on the day before New Year's Eve than one which strengthens the state's driving while intoxicated (DWI) laws. During this holiday season when our law enforcement community is hard at work keeping our roads safe, it is most fitting that we support their efforts by providing the courts with a new tool by which to penalize repeat drunk driving offenders" said the Senate President.

Senator DiFrancesco also signed AJR-68, sponsored by Assembly Member Kip Bateman (R-Morris/Somerset) and Senate President DiFrancesco (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/ Union), which creates a commission to select the proposed design for the New Jersey State coin as part of the federal "50 States Coin Program". The 15-member commission will consist of members of the public, five each appointed by the Governor, Senate President, and Assembly Speaker. The commission will submit its proposed design to the Governor and the Legislature for transmittal to the secretary of the United States Treasury within 120 days of the commission's first meeting.

"The federal Commemorative Coin Program offers New Jersey a unique opportunity to showcase and honor a part of our culture, folklore and history, while at the same time educate America's youth about the diversity and geography of the 50 states. I am proud to have sponsored the initiative that supports this effort and look forward

to the proposed design set forth by the newly created Commemorative Coin Design Commission," said Senator DiFrancesco.

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