



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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Bills Signed by Acting Governor DiFrancesco

State Senate President Donald T. DiFrancesco (R-Middlesex, Morris, Somerset and Union) today signed into law the New Jersey Fair Credit Reporting Act which will regulate the dissemination of consumer credit reports and allow consumers to obtain one copy of their credit report each year free of charge. Currently, credit reporting agencies typically charge \$8 to provide a credit report to a consumer.

The legislation, S-1910, was sponsored by Senators Peter A. Inverso (R-Mercer/Middlesex) and Wayne R. Bryant (D-Camden).

DiFrancesco, who is acting governor while Gov. Christie Whitman is attending the National Governors' Association Conference in Las Vegas, also signed the following legislation:

A-3059, sponsored by Assembly Members John E. Rooney (R- Bergen) and Rose Marie Heck (R-Bergen), appropriates \$31,555,000 from the Developmental Disabilities Waiting List and the Human Services Facilities Construction Fund. The appropriated funds will serve as construction funds for homes to reduce the Community Services Waiting List, continue the depopulation of the North Princeton Developmental Center and implement redirection plans for the closure of the Marlboro Psychiatric Hospital. The funds will also ensure the upkeep and repair of community residential facilities and group homes and expand services for the Commission of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

S-877, sponsored by Senators Louis C. Bassano (R- Essex/Union) and Richard J. Codey (D-Essex), appropriates \$6.5 million for group homes for the developmentally disabled from the Developmental Disabilities' Waiting List Reduction and Human Services Facilities Construction Fund.

"The Fair Credit Reporting Act will provide much-needed regulation of the release of information about consumer's credit ratings and enable consumers to obtain their own credit reports without paying a fee to the credit reporting agency," Whitman said. "The appropriations for programs for the developmentally disabled will enable us to build community housing for more than 500 people currently on the waiting list for housing units as well as help improve the lives of other vulnerable members of our community."

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