

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE: May 4, 1998

Governor Signed Admendment A-292 and Executive Order No. 81

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed A-292, making amendments to the Tenant Property Tax Rebate Act which requires landlords to rebate reductions in property taxes to their tenants. The Governor also signed Executive Order No. 81, creating the Landlord-Tenant Task Force which will study issues affecting landlords and tenants, including property tax rebates.

A-292 clarifies the definition of "rental properties," revises the calculation for the rebate and clarifies rebate procedures. The bill is intended to clarify the law and balance the interests of landlords and tenants in the remittance of property tax rebates.

The legislation was sponsored by Assembly Members John Kelly (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Joseph Roberts (D-Camden/Gloucester), Senator Joseph Palaia (R-Monmouth) and Senate Minority Leader John Lynch (D-Middlesex/Somerset/Union).

The Governor signed Executive Order No. 81 and created the Landlord-Tenant Task Force to continue the dialogue regarding landlord-tenant relations that emerged during the passage of A-292. The Task Force is charged with considering a number of issues including rent control, property taxes and the need for delineation between landlord and tenant responsibilities. The ten-member panel will convene by July 1 and will submit its findings to the Governor within 120 days of its first meeting.