

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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

A-415w/GR, sponsored by Assembly Members Jeffrey W. Moran (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean) and Anthony Impreveduto (D-Bergen/Hudson) and Senators Robert W. Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Edward T. O'Connor, Jr. (D-Hudson, revises licensing provisions for orthotists and prosthetists. The bill, which incorporates recommendations made by the Governor in her conditional veto of the previous bill on March 15, 1999, sets up two methods for licensure for orthotists and prosthetists. The first method for licensure requires obtaining a bachelor's degree, completing a clinical internship of not less than 1900 hours, and passing all written, practical and oral examinations required by the Orthotists and Prosthetists Board of Examiners.

The second method requires an associate's degree in science with course work in biology, anatomy and physiology, physics and chemistry, completing a clinical practice of not less than 1900 hours, and passing all written, practical and oral examinations required by the board. After the five-year period, a bachelor's degree would be required. The second method for licensure would be in effect for five years to allow some flexibility in the licensing process. Such flexibility was added to address concerns by some in the profession that there is a current shortage of orthotists and prosthetists. The bill also establishes a grandfathering provision that allows applicants with three years of experience in an established orthotic-prosthetic facility to be licensed within 180 days after the date procedures are established by the board for applying for licensure upon investigation by the board of the applicant's work experience.

A-2367, sponsored by Assembly Members Richard H. Bagger (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and David W. Wolfe (R-Monmouth/Ocean) and Senators Joseph M. Kyrillos, III (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and Peter A. Inverso (R-Mercer/Middlesex), excludes earnings in qualified state tuition program accounts and defers earnings in education individual retirement accounts from gross income taxation. The legislation, which incorporates the recommendations made by the Governor in her conditional veto of the previous bill on March 15, 1999, excludes from the New Jersey Gross Income Tax earnings on qualified state tuition savings accounts. The bill defers from the New Jersey Gross Income Tax earnings on educational individual retirement accounts until the money is withdrawn.

ACS for **A-2414**, **A-1638** and **A-2456**, sponsored by Assembly Members Alan M. Augustine (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and Richard A. Merkt (R-Morris, Nellie Pou, D-Passaic), John S. Wisniewski (D-Middlesex) and Neil M. Cohen (D-Union), criminalizes the obtaining of any personal identifying information pertaining to another person and using that information, or assisting another person in using

that information, to pretend to be that person. Under the bill, personal identifying information includes name, address, telephone number, social security number, place of employment, employee identification number, demand deposit account number, savings account number, credit card number and mother's maiden name. The bill incorporates the recommendations that the Governor made in her conditional veto of the original bill on Feb. 11, 1999. Obtaining and using personal identifying number information would be a crime only if it were done without the authorization of the person whose identity was obtained and used with the intent to obtain a benefit. The bill grades the new offense, as well as several existing offenses, based on the amount of the pecuniary benefit or the value of the injury or fraud perpetrated on the person.