



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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Gov. Whitman Signs Legislation

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed legislation eliminating charges against the unemployment insurance accounts of employers who do not lay-off claimants.

While the bill will not affect the payment of unemployment insurance to employees, it will relieve former employers of the cost of benefits for employees who subsequently qualify for benefits under a new employer.

Currently, an employer's unemployment insurance account would be charged for a former employee who voluntarily quit or who was discharged for misconduct if the former employee qualifies for benefits under a subsequent job. With the new law, the employer's account will no longer be charged for these benefits. Rather the cost will be absorbed by the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

It is estimated that this legislation will have a very small impact on the trust fund.

Sponsors of the legislation , **A-1971/S-1616**, were Assemblymen Guy Gregg and Scott Garrett (both R-Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris) and Senators James Cafiero (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Robert Littell (R- Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris).

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