



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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Gov. Christie Whitman today signed legislation that will permit the public sale of the Red Bank Armory to the highest bidder. The armory, on Chestnut Street in Red Bank, consists of about 1.7 acres and improvements.

The legislation, A-1724, was sponsored by Assemblyman Joseph Azzolina (R-Monmouth/Middlesex). It repeals P. L. 1991, c. 88 which authorized the sale of the armory on terms approved by the State House Commission at its January, 1989 meeting. The proposal approved by the Commission contemplated sale of the property to the City of Red Bank. The City has since decided not to purchase the property.

The Governor also signed the following legislation:

A-2182, sponsored by Assemblyman Alan M. Augustine (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union), allows for the recovery of certain fees for successful claimants under the "Wheelchair Lemon Law." The law provides consumers protection from defective motorized wheelchairs. The bill signed by Whitman today provides for the recovery of attorneys' fees, expert witness fees, costs of the suit, and reimbursement of the cost of renting a temporary wheelchair by a successful claimant at the administrative level of review.

The bill also provides for recovery of expert witness fees by a successful consumer on appeal from an administrative decision. Currently, the law provides for recovery of only attorney's fees at the appellate level.

A-2683, sponsored by Assemblyman Joseph R. Malone, III (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean), appropriates \$10, 470, 832 to the Department of Corrections from the Correctional Facilities Construction Fund for the renovations to the Vroom Building, the Albert C. Wagner Youth Correctional Facility and Northern State Prison.

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