

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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

S-827, sponsored by Senator Louis F. Kosco (R-Bergen) and Assembly Members Gerald J. Luongo (R-Camden/Gloucester), and Kenneth C. LeFevre (R-Atlantic), prohibits the obstruction of special parking spaces designed to benefit handicapped individuals. The bill provides that a person who owns or controls a parking area which contains special parking spaces for the handicapped shall be responsible for assuring that access to those spaces and to curb cuts are not obstructed. If the obstruction is ice or snow, the bill requires that the ice or snow be removed from the special parking spaces or curb cuts within 48 hours after the weather condition causing the ice or snow ceases. The bill provides for a penalty of not less than \$200 or more than \$500 for a violation of the act.

SJR-10, sponsored by Senator Anthony R. Bucco (R-Morris) and Assembly Members Marion Crecco (R-Essex/Passaic) and Guy F. Talarico (R-Bergen), designates December 7th of each year as Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day in New Jersey. The resolution calls for the Governor to annually issue a proclamation calling on citizens to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. The resolution urges state and local governments, as well as interested organizations, groups and individuals to fly the flags of the United States and the State of New Jersey at half-staff on December 7th in honor of the individuals who died in the Pearl Harbor attack.

S-1771, sponsored by Senator Walter J. Kavanaugh (R- Morris/Somerset) and Assembly Members Joseph V. Doria, Jr. (D- Hudson) and John V. Kelly (R-Bergen), encourages insurance carriers to employ internal compliance reviews by protecting the results of those reviews from disclosure to third parties, other than state and federal regulators. Insurers often voluntarily create compliance review committees to monitor, evaluate, review, audit, assess or investigate the operations of the insurer for the purpose of identifying or preventing violations of law, marketplace practices that could result in violations of law, or noncompliance with industry or professional market standards. The bill provides for incentives for life and health insurers to initiate voluntary compliance reviews to identify and correct problems by providing that the deliberations and discussions of the compliance review committee and the documents associated with that committee are privileged and not evidential in legal and administrative proceedings involving the insurance carrier.