

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### NEWS RELEASE

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## Gov. Whitman Files Conditional Vetoes - A-1669, S-1932, S-2316 and A-3142, A-1933/S-1334

Gov. Christie Whitman today filed conditional vetoes making recommendations for improvement and clarification of the following bills:

**A-1669**, sponsored by Assembly Members John Kelly (R- Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Kevin O'Toole (R- Essex/Union) and Senators Bernard Kenny (D-Hudson), Ron Rice (D-Essex) and John Scott (R- Bergen/Essex/Passaic), which creates Local Government Leave of Absence Fund and grants leave of absence for certain groups for certain conventions. The Governor expressed concern that this bill may constitute an unfunded mandate. She recommended the deletion of the provision that creates the Local Government Leave of Absence Fund. The Governor also recommended that local governments be given discretion over the types of groups and activities that qualify for paid leave of absence.

**S-1932**, sponsored by Senator Jack Ewing (R-Morris/Somerset), which would require the New Jersey Highway Authority to implement open and competitive contracting procedures for contracts for towing and storage services. The Governor disagreed with the bill's conclusion that the price of towing and storage fees should not be considered in awarding contracts. The Governor recommended that the legislation provide that the Authority consider price, but also additional factors including reliability, experience and response time when awarding the contract. The Governor's objective in making the recommendations is to protect the safety and economic interests of New Jersey motorists.

**S-2316**, sponsored by Senator Leonard Connors (R- Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean) and Assembly Members Anthony Improvuto (D-Bergen/Hudson) and Jeffrey Moran (R- Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean), which would require real estate appraisers to submit to a state and federal criminal background check before they are certified or licensed as appraisers. The Governor recommended that the bill be changed to require that the certified appraisers, not the taxpayers, bear the cost of the background checks.

Assembly Committee Substitute for **A-1933/S-1334**, sponsored by Assembly Members Nicholas Asselta (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Francis J. Bodine (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Camden) and the late Senator William Haines (R-Atlantic/ Burlington/Camden) and James S. Cafiero (R-Cape May/Atlantic/ Cumberland), repeals the current restrictions on utilizing bait when hunting deer. Current law prohibits the use of bait if the hunter is elevated or if the hunter is within 300 feet from the baited area. The Governor recommended the deletion of the provision of the bill which precludes the Department of Environmental Protection and the Fish and Game Council from enforcing all other laws or regulations controlling hunting and the disposal of waste. The Governor also recommended that the use of baiting should be studied in conjunction with an ongoing analysis of the state's deer population that is being performed by DEP and the Department of Agriculture, rather than in a separate study as required by the bill. The findings of the study must be reported to the Governor and Legislature within one year of the effective date of the bill. Also, as conditionally vetoed by the Governor, the baiting provisions of the bill will sunset within eighteen months of its effective date so that specific recommendations of the study can be implemented in future legislation.

**A-3142**, sponsored by Assembly Member Jack Gibson (R-Cape May/Atlantic/ Cumberland) and David Wolfe (R-Monmouth/Ocean) and Senator James Cafiero (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and John Bennett (R-Monmouth), which would appropriate \$5 million for shore protection projects, specifically for clean-up from storm damage, in FY 1998. The Governor fully supported the need for shore protection, but recommended that funding for these projects should come from existing bond funds allocated for shore protection rather than from the General Fund.

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