

Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Gene Herman
609-777-2600

RELEASE: January 12, 1999

Gov. Christie Whitman today vetoed the following piece of legislation:

S-310, sponsored by Senator William L. Gormley (R-Atlantic) and Assembly Members Kenneth C. LeFevre (R-Atlantic) and Francis J. Blee (R-Atlantic), would have permitted casino key employees to gamble in any casino except a casino in which they were employed or another casino owned or operated by the key employees' employer. It also would have extended to former casino key employees the 30-day waiting period already applicable to former regular casino employees before being allowed to gamble in the casino where they had been employed or any other one owned or operated by that casino licensee. The Governor said she understood the desire on the part of the sponsors to provide equity between casino key employees and other employees regarding the ability to gamble in casinos other than the one in which an employee workers or any other which casino owned or operated by the same casino. However, the Governor said, the two groups are very different because key employees are the very people who are empowered to make important discretionary decisions about the conduct of gaming operations. She said she was concerned about the impact that the bill could reasonably be expected to have on the public's confidence in state regulations and control of casinos. She said it is important that the state do not do anything to endanger the public confidence and trust. The state, she said, must strive to avoid even an appearance of impropriety.

Gov. Christie Whitman today conditionally vetoed the following piece of legislation.

S-57, sponsored by Senator Walter J. Kavanaugh (R-Morris/Somerset) and Assembly Members Guy R. Gregg (R-Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris) and Richard A. Merkt (R-Morris), would have provided for the suspension of certain licenses, registrations and certifications for failure to pay student loans. The bill would have required the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs or the appropriate regulatory board within the Division to suspend the license, registration or certification of any person who has been certified by a lender or guarantor for nonpayment or default of a state or federal student loan. The bill provided that such a suspension shall be issued after a hearing. Under the bill, a suspended license could not have been renewed until the director or the board received a written release from the lender stating that the delinquent borrowed has cured the default or is making payments pursuant to a repayment approved by the lender. The Division of Consumer Affairs governs the licensing of various professionals, including doctors, dentists, chiropractors, architects, nurses, real estate appraisers, and physicians' assistants. The bill also would have given authority to the New Jersey Supreme Court to suspend the licenses of attorneys who are delinquent on their student loans. The Governor said she concurred with the sponsors of the legislation that the problem of defaulted student loans if of

great importance to New Jersey taxpayers and requires immediate action. She said while she supported the bill, she recommended that the bill be amended to ensure that the debtor is afforded a proper due process hearing by stating that the Director or Board shall suspend a professional license as appropriate. She also recommended that an amendment to permit the New Jersey State Supreme Court to establish its own due process procedures in accordance with its rules for suspension of attorneys' licenses.