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NEWS RELEASE

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

S-54, sponsored by Senators Walter J. Kavanaugh (R- Morris/Somerset) and Robert J. Martin (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Assembly Members Joel M. Weingarten (R-Essex/Union) and Neil M. Cohen (D-Union), amends existing matrimonial laws by providing for limited duration alimony and reimbursement alimony and expanding the factors that a court may consider when determining whether alimony is appropriate. Under previous law, the courts could award only two types of alimony: (1) permanent alimony, which is intended to compensate a spouse for economic dependency created by the marriage; and (2) rehabilitative alimony, which is intended for specific educational or training purposes and is of short duration.

The bill authorizes the court to award two additional types of alimony: (1) limited duration, which would be awarded where economic assistance is necessary for a limited time; and (2) reimbursement alimony, which will be awarded to compensate the spouse who supported the other spouse while her or she obtained an advanced education while anticipating sharing the earning capacity generated by the education. Limited duration alimony, like permanent alimony under previous law, will terminate upon the remarriage of the receiving spouse. Reimbursement alimony, like rehabilitative alimony under previous law, will not terminate upon remarriage.

The bill continues to grant the court the authority to award permanent alimony, limited duration alimony, rehabilitative alimony or reimbursement alimony separately, or in any combination, as warranted by the specific circumstances of the parties and the nature of the case. The bill further amends the law to establish two new factors to consider when determining whether any type of alimony is appropriate: (1) the income available to either party through investment of any assets; and (2) the tax treatment consequences to both parties of any alimony awarded.

S-1092, sponsored by Senator Gerald Cardinale (R-Bergen) and Assembly Members John E. Rooney (R-Bergen) and Paul Kramer (R- Mercer/Middlesex), amends the Special Emergency Appropriations Act to allow municipalities to adopt an ordinance authorizing a special emergency appropriation for the preparation of a sanitary or storm sewer system map. The purpose of this bill is to permit municipalities to make a multi-year appropriation for sanitary and storm sewer mapping, rather than having mapping costs appropriated and paid for in one budget year, as previous law required. The multi-year appropriation will help municipalities mapping their sanitary and storm sewer systems to avoid a spike in their budgets due to the high cost of system mapping. Mapping sanitary and

storm sewer systems is necessary to effectively manage non-point sources of pollution.

