

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-1495, sponsored by Senators Martha W. Bark (R- Atlantic/Burlington/Camden) and Louis F. Kosko (R-Bergen), amends existing law to allow for the creation of a permanent 9-1-1 Commission that would oversee the state-wide emergency 9-1-1 system. The previous law creating the commission has expired. The Commission, vested in the Department of Law and Public Safety, has continued to function in an advisory capacity. The bill also expands the composition of the 9-1-1 Commission to include two representatives of the wireless telephone companies, one representative from the National Emergency Number Association and one representative of the Certified Local Exchange Carriers. The composition of the board and the appointment process will remain the same as under previous law. The bill requires all wireless telephone companies providing service in New Jersey to provide enhanced 9-1-1 services within three years, so as to conform to a Federal Communications Commission mandate. The bill transfers the Office of Telecommunications Services, a subdivision of the State Police responsible for handling 9-1-1 calls, to the Office of Information Technology in the Department of the Treasury.

S-835, sponsored by Senators John J. Matheussen (R- Camden/Gloucester) and Anthony R. Bucco (R-Morris) and Assembly Members Joseph J. Roberts, Jr. (D-Camden/Gloucester) and John V. Kelly (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic), provides an appropriation of \$1.5 million to the Department of Law and Public Safety to be used by the Office of Emergency Management to develop, equip and train volunteer urban search and rescue teams. Specifically, the appropriation will be used to train and equip a statewide network of volunteers, to be largely drawn from local firefighter and rescue squads, to respond in the event of a building collapse or some other disastrous event requiring specialized response teams and equipment. New Jersey currently has no such team and relies on surrounding states for equipment as well as on the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

A-2114, sponsored by Assembly Members Jeffrey W. Moran (R- Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean) and Anthony Impreveduto (D- Bergen/Hudson) and Senators Robert W. Singer (R- Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Garry J. Furnari (D- Bergen/Essex/Passaic), provides for the licensure of perfusionists - medical technicians who use various procedures to support, treat, measure or supplement the cardiovascular, circulatory or respiratory system under the supervision of a licensed physician. The bill establishes a separate Perfusionists Advisory Committee under the State Board of Medical Examiners to oversee licensure. The committee will consist of seven members who are residents of the state, six of whom shall be licensed perfusionists, except for the members first appointed. The remaining member shall be a licensed physician. All seven members will be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.

