



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### NEWS RELEASE

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### Governor Christie Whitman Signed Legislation

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed legislation that expands the mission of the Wastewater Treatment Trust to include stormwater management and combined sewer overflow abatement projects, provides additional funding to municipalities for such projects and allows the state to access federal funding for such projects.

The legislation renames the Wastewater Treatment Trust as the "New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust," recognizing the expansion of the trust's mission.

The Governor signed the following bills:

**S-2142**, sponsored by Senators William Gormley (R-Atlantic) and James Cafiero (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Assembly Members Connie Myers (R-Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer) and Paul Kramer (R-Mercer/Middlesex), appropriates \$55,500,000 in federal and state funds to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the implementation of the Wastewater Treatment Trust's financial plan for FY 1998. The funds will be appropriated to make zero-interest loans to local governments for up to 50 percent of the eligible cost of wastewater treatment system projects. A list of the projects included in the financial plan is attached.

**S-2144**, sponsored by Senators Henry McNamara (R-Bergen/Passaic) and Martha Bark (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Camden) and Assembly Members Larry Chatzidakis (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Camden) and John Gibson (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland), authorizes the New Jersey Wastewater Treatment Trust to make up to \$50 million, plus previously authorized funds, in loans for wastewater treatment system projects specified in S-2142. This bill fully funds the cost of projects, \$53,350,000, listed in the Wastewater Treatment Trust financial plan which are included in companion bill S-2142.

**A-1511**, sponsored by Assembly Member John Gibson (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and now Senator Martha Bark (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Camden) and Senators Joseph Kyrillos (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and Andrew Ciesla (R-Monmouth/Ocean), expands the authority of the Wastewater Treatment Trust to include not

only the financing of wastewater treatment system projects but also stormwater management and combined sewer overflow abatement projects. The bill renames the trust as the "New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust."

**A-1512**, sponsored by Assembly Members Connie Myers (R-Warren/Hunterdon/ Morris) and Anthony Bucco (R-Morris) and Senators Joe Kyrillos and Andrew Ciesla, amends the "Stormwater Management and Combined Sewer Overflow Abatement Bond Act of 1989" to allow the state greater access to bond monies for the purpose of funding stormwater and combined sewer overflow abatement projects. The amendment to the bond act will be placed on the November ballot for voter approval.

**A-156**, sponsored by Assembly Members Anthony Bucco and Neil Cohen (D-Union) and Senators Joe Kyrillos and Andrew Ciesla, amends and supplements the "Water Supply Bond Act of 1981" to allow the state access to monies from the bond fund. This bill will enable New Jersey to access federal matching funds up to \$28 million for water supply projects. The amendment to the bond act will be placed on the November ballot for voter approval.

Gov. Whitman today also signed **S-1283**, sponsored by Senator John Ewing (R-Morris/Somerset) and James Cafiero (R-Cape May/Atlantic/ Cumberland), which requires students to comply with the Military Selective Service Act as a condition for receipt of state funded financial assistance for postsecondary education. This bill is consistent with federal law, which prohibits pupils who fail to register for selective service from receiving federal student aid.

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