

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Whitman Signs "Sore Loser Law"

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed the so-called "Sore Loser Law," which changes filing deadlines for candidates and prohibits "sore loser" candidates from running for office as an independent after losing a primary election for the same office.

S-1227, sponsored by Senators John Lynch (D-Middlesex/Somerset/Union) and Walter Kavanaugh (R-Morris/Somerset) and Assembly Members Reed Gusciora (D-Mercer) and Michael Carroll (R-Morris), prohibits a candidate for the House of Representatives from running for a seat in the House in one Congressional district if that person had previously accepted the party nomination for a seat in another district during the same calendar year.

The bill also gives independent candidates an additional 54 days to file their petitions by changing the filing deadline to the day of the primary election. Previously, the deadline was 54 days before the primary election.

In last fall's election, Carl Mayer ran on the Green Party ticket in the 6th Congressional district after losing a bid for the Democratic nomination in the 12th Congressional district.