

Office of the Governor

NEWS RELEASE

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

S-953, sponsored by Senator Norman Robertson (R- Essex/Passaic) and Assemblywoman Marion Crecco (R-Essex/Passaic), makes certain members of the Police and Firemen's Retirement System eligible for disability retirement benefits if the officer dies before applying for retirement. The bill will benefit the widow of Robert Stengo, a policeman with 18 years of service in Bloomfield, who died of lung failure due to a rare medical condition. The bill will allow his widow to receive disability retirement benefits, rather than the ordinary death benefits, which are lower.

S-402, sponsored by Senator Robert Littell (R- Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris) and Assembly Members Guy Gregg and Scott Garrett (both R-Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris), would expand the authority of fire police, who are members of volunteer companies, to control traffic and crowds at public events. The bill was modified by the Governor to clarify that duly authorized police officers would have supervisory authority over fire police in crowd control situations.

S-1252, sponsored by Senator Peter Inverso (R- Mercer/Middlesex) and Assembly Member Leonard Lance (R- Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer), directs the Commissioner of Personnel to establish application fees for law enforcement officer and firefighter exams. The bill increases the application fee for open competitive and promotional examinations from \$5 to the actual cost of administering and scoring the test.