

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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GOVERNOR SIGNS LEGISLATION GRANTING SCHOOL BOARDS MORE FLEXIBILITY IN AWARDING CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed legislation, which gives schools boards and the state more flexibility with regard to bidding and awarding contracts for construction work on public buildings.

"This legislation will give school boards and state officials additional tools to use in the bidding process to help lower construction costs and save taxpayer dollars," the Governor said. "This system is similar to the bidding process already available to municipalities, counties and the federal government."

The bill provides schools boards and state entities with the authority to choose whether to use single prime bidding, multiple bidding or both methods when awarding construction contracts.

Under previous law, school boards, the State and the State Building Authority, were required to bid each contract using both the single and multiple methods, and were locked into the lowest price without being able to consider other factors, such as the likelihood of construction delays and cost overruns or the overall management of the contract.

The flexibility in this bill had been long sought by school boards and school business administrators as a way to save taxpayer dollars.

The legislation, S-987, was sponsored by Senators Joseph M. Kyrillos, Jr. (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and Edward T. O'Connor, Jr. (D-Hudson) and Assembly Members Alex DeCroce (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Joseph V. Doria, Jr. (D-Hudson).