

Office of the Governor

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Steffanie Bell
609-777-2600

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Governor Christie Whitman today signed the following legislation:

A-1974, sponsored by Assembly Members Rose Marie Heck (R-Bergen) and Gerald Luongo (R-Camden/Gloucester) and Senators Diane Allen (R-Burlington/Camden) and James Cafiero (R-Atlantic/Cape May/Cumberland), appropriates \$70,000 to the Department of Environmental Protection, for the study and identification of historic sites associated with significant historic women in the state and the development of the "New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail." The New Jersey Historic Preservation Office will be responsible for identifying and documenting sites and will recommend how to develop a "New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail" tourism guide.

A-2767, sponsored by Assembly Members Michael Arnone (R-Monmouth) and Clare Farragher (R-Monmouth) and Senators Martha Bark (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Camden) and Robert Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean), authorizes housing authorities to enter into employment contracts with housing authority executive directors.

A-2161, sponsored by Assemblymen John Kelly (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Joseph V. Doria, Jr. (D-Hudson) and Senators Jack Sinagra (R-Middlesex) and Joseph M. Kyrillos, Jr. (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) requires public works contractors to register with the Department of Labor (DOL) to ensure compliance with labor laws. The bill will enable DOL to better monitor and enforce existing State and federal labor laws concerning wages, unemployment and temporary disability insurance, workers compensation insurance and payment of payroll taxes.

ACS for A-2454/2273, sponsored by Assemblywomen Barbara Buono (D-Middlesex), Carol Murphy (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Barbara Wright (R-Mercer/Middlesex), establishes the "New Jersey Women's Micro-Business Pilot Program" in the Department of Community Affairs. The two-year pilot program will provide loans, loan guarantees, training and technical assistance to potential female entrepreneurs looking to start a home-based or part-time business. The program targets, but is not limited to, women with little or no prior business experience and women who have a gross annual personal income less than 125% of the official poverty line.

