

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

PO BOX 004
CONTACT: Pete McDonough
(609) 777-2600

TRENTON, NJ 08625
RELEASE: January 12, 1998



Gov. Christie Whitman Signed Legislation

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

S-119, sponsored by Senator Joseph A. Palaia (R-Monmouth) and former Assembly Member Patrick J. Roma (R-Bergen) and Assembly Member John V. Kelly (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic), allows plan beneficiaries of the Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund or the Public Employees/ Retirement System (PERS) to opt for deduction of their dental insurance premiums from their retirement allowances.

S-142, sponsored by Senator John A. Lynch (D-Middlesex, Somerset and Union) and Assembly Members Jerry Green (D- Middlesex/Somerset/Union) and Paul DiGaetano (R-Bergen/Essex), exempts certain imprinting services on manufacturing equipment from sales and use tax.

S-446, sponsored by Senators Robert W. Singer (R- Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and James E. McGreevey (D-Middlesex) and Assembly Members Nicholas R. Felice (R-Bergen/Passaic) and Anthony Imprevuduto (D-Bergen/Hudson), requires the New Jersey Economic Development Authority to administer a corporate business tax benefit certificate transfer program. This program will allow new or expanding technology and biotechnology companies in the state to apply to the EDA to transfer certain tax benefits to other corporate business taxpayers. The transferable tax benefits are unused carryover of research and development tax credits and unused net operating loss carryover.

S-481, sponsored by Senators Robert E. Littell (R- Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris) and John H. Ewing (R-Morris/Somerset) and Assembly Members Carmine DeSopo (R-Burlington/Camden) and Neil M. Cohen (D-Union), provides state-paid health benefits to a retired state employee and any dependents, but not including survivors, if the employee: (1) retired prior to the effective date of this act under the State Police Retirement System (SPRS) with more than 20, but less than 25 years of service in the retirement system; (2) was subsequently employed by the state in another position or positions not covered by the SPRS; (3) has, in the aggregate, at least 30 years of full-time employment with the state and (4) is covered by the program at the time of terminating full-time employment with the state.

S-492, sponsored By Senator John O. Bennett (R-Monmouth) and Assembly Member Michael J. Arnone (R-Monmouth), eliminates the routine six-month inspections of elevators either by local municipalities or the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) where the elevators are already maintained, inspected and tested by a qualified device inspection firm. The bill requires, however, that governmental officials witness the initial elevator test and the five-year test conducted on elevators.

S-1056, sponsored by Senator Joseph A. Palaia (R-Monmouth), eliminates duplicate state and local licensing of certain frozen dessert establishments. The bill revises the definition of frozen dessert plant to exclude retail stores and provides, instead, that the term applies to an establishment where frozen desserts are assembled, manufactured, processed, frozen or converted in form, for wholesale distribution or sale. Thus, the bill deletes the current duplicate requirement that retail establishments that prepare frozen deserts for sale at the establishment obtain a state license, as well as a county or municipal retail establishment license.

S-1887, sponsored by Senators William E. Schluter (R- Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer) and Joseph A. Palaia (R-Monmouth) and Assembly Members Rose Marie Heck (R-Bergen) and Alex DeCroce (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic), requires health insurance coverage for the purchase of medically necessary foods and food products for the treatment of inherited metabolic diseases. The bill requires hospitals, medical and health service corporations, individuals, small employers and large group insurers and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for the therapeutic treatment of the inherited metabolic diseases for which testing of newborns is already mandated by the state.

SJR-58, sponsored by Senator C. Louis Bassano (R-Essex/Union) and Assembly Member Charlotte Vandervalk (R-Bergen), designates the month of March each year as Hepatitis C Awareness Month in New Jersey. The joint resolution also urges the Department of Health and Senior Services and all other public and private entities entrusted with the health of the citizens of New Jersey to determine the prevalence of Hepatitis C in the general population and to implement educational programs for the general public and health care professionals. The education programs are to focus on the prevalence, prevention, screening -- especially targeted screening of high-risk New Jersey residents -- and treatment of this disease.

A-111, sponsored by Assembly Members LeRoy J. Jones, Jr. (D-Essex) and Nia H. Gill (D-Essex), allows senior citizens 62 or older, or their surviving spouses, who own single family dwellings as the primary residences, to rent a room to one person in their dwelling without applying for the permits usually required by municipalities. The bill seeks to help senior citizens who own their own homes earn extra income.

A-136, sponsored by Assembly Member LeRoy J. Jones, Jr. (D-Essex), amends the law to permit a notary public who is an employee of a financial institution, or other corporation, to follow the employee's policies that oaths not be administered except in connection with the business of the employer.

A-353, sponsored by Assembly Members Joan M. Quigley (D- Bergen/Hudson) and Nicholas R. Felice (R-Bergen/Passaic) and Senators Nicholas J. Sacco (D-Bergen/Hudson) and John P. Scott (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic), amends a recently enacted law requiring DNA testing for adults convicted of serious sex offenses to include juveniles adjudicated delinquent for these crimes, as well as adults and juveniles found not guilty by reason of insanity.

A-665, sponsored by Assembly Members Richard H. Bagger (R- Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and Joel Weingarten (R- Essex/Union), creates the Rahway River Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee. The Committee will be composed of a representative of each river municipality to be selected by the governing body of the municipality; representatives of Middlesex and Union Counties selected by their respective governing bodies; a representative of Essex County, who shall be selected by the county executive and the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). All except the DEP commissioner will be voting members of the Committee.

A-694, sponsored by Assembly Members Charles "Ken" Zisa (D-Bergen) and Carmine DeSopo (R-Burlington/Camden) and Senator Joseph L. Bubba (R-Essex/Passaic), clarifies the definition of a leader of a narcotics trafficking network. It is a legislative response to a 1993 New Jersey Supreme Court decision which

held, among other things, that a court must instruct a jury that a defendant occupied an upper level or upper echelon position in an illegal drug scheme in order to be found guilty as a leader of a narcotics trafficking network. Being a leader of a drug trafficking network is a first-degree crime punishable by life imprisonment with a 25- year period of parole ineligibility.

A-1321, sponsored by Assembly Members Louis A. Romano (D-Hudson) and Raul "Rudy" Garcia (D-Hudson), clarifies the law permitting municipal licensing of premises for rooming and boarding houses. The bill states that rooming and boarding houses licensed by a municipality are still required to be licensed by, and comply with, rules and regulations of the Department of Community Affairs.

A-1825, sponsored by Assembly Members Anthony Impreveduto (D- Bergen/Hudson) and Jeffrey W. Moran (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean) and Senator Leonard T. Connors, Jr. (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean), prohibits certain recorded telephone messages. The bill prohibits the making of intrastate telephone calls to deliver any recorded message unless the recorded message is introduced by a live operator who obtains the consent of the person called, or unless a prior or current business relationship exists between the caller and the person called.

A-2349, sponsored by Assembly Member David C. Russo (R- Bergen/Passaic) and Senator John H. Ewing (R-Morris/Somerset) prohibits intentional misrepresentation by a business of its location. The bill supplements the consumer fraud law to prohibit any business entity conducting or transacting business under an assumed name and filing a certificate pursuant to the law from intentionally misrepresenting that business geographic origin or location.

A-2407, sponsored by Assembly Member Rose Marie Heck (R-Bergen) and Senator Joseph M. Kyrillos, Jr. (R-Middlesex/Monmouth), provides for the licensing of electrologists and electrology instructors.

#####