

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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

A-29, sponsored by assembly Members Jack Collins (R-Salem/Cumberland/Gloucester) and Kenneth Faulkner (R-Burlington/Camden) and Senators Diane B. Allen (R-Burlington/Camden) and Leonard T. Connors, Jr. (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean), appropriates \$17.5 million to the New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission for loans and grants for eight economic development sites in the Delaware River and Bay Region. The funds will be appropriated from the 1996 Economic Development Site Fund. The funds will be allocated in the following manner:

- A loan of \$515,000 for the Coriel Institute for Medical Research in Camden County for a new laboratory;
- A loan of \$1,250,000 and a grant of \$250,000 for the Barnegat Bay Decoy and Baymen's Museum in Ocean County for the construction of a waterfront site in Tuckerton;
- A loan of \$2.5 million and a grant of \$1 million to Rutgers and the Cooper's Ferry Development Association for capital improvements to the Nipper Building that would enable the Nutraceuticals Institute to be located with the Urban Enterprise Zone on the Camden waterfront;
- A loan of \$485,000 and a grant of \$500,000 for Wheaton Village located in Cumberland County to expand its facility;
- A loan of \$1 million for Del Lines, L. L. C. to create a marine terminal and a distribution center in Camden County;
- A grant of \$5 million to Burlington County to capitalize a revolving loan fund for projects along the Route 130 corridor;
- A grant of \$5 million to Salem County for the development of the Salem County Industrial Park.

The loans authorized in the bill would be zero-interest loans, with a maximum repayment term of 20 years. In a line item veto, the Governor eliminated the line item appropriation for the loan of \$2.5 million for Camden Iron and Metal, Incorporated, out of concern that the proposed project would result in a negative fiscal impact to the Southern Jersey Port Corporation, which receives state funding.

A-1656, sponsored by Assembly Member Barbara Wright (R-Mercer/Middlesex), amends current law to extend the provisions governing certification of homemaker-home health aides by the New Jersey Board of Nursing to homemaker-home health aides working in assisted living residences, comprehensive personal care homes, assisted living programs and alternate family care sponsored agencies licensed by the Department of Health and Senior

Services. The bill expands the definition of home care services agency to include these other settings, in addition to the traditional licensed home health agencies as previously provided in the law. Thus, all certified homemaker-home health aides employed in these other settings would qualify for recertification. Under previous law, certified homemaker-home health aides may have been faced with the prospect of losing their certification if, at the time they needed to be recertified, they were employed in a health care setting other than through a traditional home care services agency. In addition, the bill changed previous law to provide that a fee may be charged, but does not have to be charged (as was required under the previous statute) by a health care service firm for procuring employment for a homemaker-home health aide in order for that aide to be eligible for certification by virtue of the aide's relationship with the health care service firm.

S-986, sponsored by Senator Robert W. Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean), prohibits the Department of Environmental Protection from adopting any code, regulation, rule or standard that diminishes the efficacy of a hospital medical disinfectant in killing or inactivating agents of infectious diseases, including, but not limited to, restrictions on the volatile organic compound (VOC) content or emissions caused by the use of such products, unless otherwise required by federal law, rule or regulation.

A-1669, sponsored by Assembly Members E. Scott Garrett (R-Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris) and Micheal J. Arnone (R-Monmouth) and Senators Diane B. Allen (R-Burlington/Camden) and Louis F. Kosco (R-Bergen), provides a Neighborhood and Business Child Care Tax Incentive Program. The bill allows the corporate and individual contributions to the eight new child care centers established pursuant to two related bills to receive tax credits based on their expenditures toward child care facilities and operations for the three-year life of the pilot initiatives.

A-1771, sponsored by Assembly Members John C. Gibson (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Nicholas Asselta (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Senator James S. Cafiero (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland), reappropriates \$645,000 from the Jobs, Education and Competitiveness Fund to the Commission on Higher Education. The bill rescinds prior appropriations totaling \$645,000 for the construction of child care facilities at Cumberland, Hudson, Ocean, Union and Warren County community colleges. The five institutions initially received the funds under a portion of the Jobs, Education and Competitiveness Fund that by statute is to be used for statewide or regional purposes. The five colleges requested the reallocation of their allotment because either there was no longer a need for child care facilities or the amounts appropriated were insufficient to fund the projects. The funds could not be reallocated to other projects at the five colleges because the Commission on Higher Education determined that no other statewide or regional projects were being done by those institutions. The bill reappropriates the rescinded amounts to the commission for the provision of community college services to the residents of Cape May County and the surrounding area, services the commission deemed important to the region. The funds will be used to support the capital needs resulting from the joint agreement between Cape May and Atlantic County to form a community college.

