

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

CONTACT: Gene Herman
609-777-2600

RELEASE: March 5, 1999

NEWS RELEASE

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

A-560, sponsored by Assembly Members Richard H. Bagger (R- Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and Alan M. Augustine (R- Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union), permits the Commissioner of Transportation to exempt railroad companies from sounding train whistles or horns at grade crossings under certain conditions. The bill provides that the Commissioner of Transportation may exempt railroad companies from State law which requires a bell or whistle to be sounded at grade crossings, provided that (1) the governing body of the county or municipality in which the grade crossing is located applies for such an exemption; (2) the county or municipality employs supplementary safety measures approved by the Federal Railroad Administration or U. S. Secretary of Transportation which fully compensate for the absence of the warning provided by the bell or whistle; and (3) the U. S. Secretary of Transportation has granted a waiver or exemption from the federal law which requires the sounding of a bell or whistle at a grade crossing.

AJR-49, sponsored by Assembly Members Leonard Lance (R- Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer) and Joseph Charles, Jr. (D-Hudson) and Senators John O. Bennett (R-Monmouth) and Richard J. Codey (D- Essex), establishes the Public Officers Salary Review Commission. The Commission will review the salaries of the Governor, cabinet officers, members of the Board of Public Utilities, members of the Casino Control Commission, workers' compensation judges, administrative law judges, members of the Legislature, members of the State Commission of Investigation, Justices of the Supreme Court, judges of the Superior Court, judges of the Tax Court and county prosecutors. The commission will consist of seven members: two members appointed by the Governor, no more than one of whom is of the same political party, and one member appointed by the President of the Senate, Senate minority leader, Speaker of the General Assembly, Assembly minority leader, and the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court.

