



Department of Commerce and Economic Development

NEWS RELEASE

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Gov. Christie Whitman Signs Executive Order Creating Advisory Committee to Study Future of Training School for Boys in Monroe Township

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed Executive Order 75 creating an advisory committee to study the feasibility of closing the New Jersey Training School for Boys in Monroe Township.

"Our goal is to determine whether the Training School is fulfilling its mission of successfully rehabilitating juvenile offenders and returning them to the community, and if security issues are impacting on the institution itself or the quality of life of the residents of Monroe and nearby communities," Whitman said.

Whitman said the advisory committee will assist the Juvenile Justice Commission in the Commission's study of the feasibility of closing the Training School for Boys. The study was part of this year's Appropriations Act and a report is due to be provided to the Legislature by December 31 of this year.

Among the issues the Advisory Committee will address are:

- Public safety as it relates to the security of the training school.
- Whether the current physical facility meets the needs of the Juvenile Justice Commission in terms of the custody and care of juveniles.
- The cost effectiveness of a closure.
- Whether the state should undertake new construction elsewhere and, if new construction is recommended, possible alternative locations.

The Advisory Committee will be comprised of up to 12 members. The membership will include the Attorney General or his designee; Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice Commission or his designee; the State Treasurer or his designee and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget or her designee. It will also include the Superintendent of the Training School for boys or her designee; a State Senator to be appointed by the Senate President; Assembly Member to be appointed by the Assembly Speaker; a member of the Advisory

Council to the Juvenile Justice Commission to be appointed by the Governor; a member of the Monroe Training School for Boys Citizen Review Board and up to four members of the public to be appointed by the Governor.

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