



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Christie Whitman today signed legislation prohibiting private clubs from discriminating against members on the basis of sex, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, or nationality.

This legislation amends the "Law Against Discrimination" to provide that once an individual has been admitted to a private club, club privileges and benefits may not be withheld from that club member. It is being signed in the wake of reports that some golf clubs are assigning unfavorable tee times for female members, while reserving preferential tee times for its male members. This bill would prohibit this behavior, and any other type of discrimination which is prohibited when carried out by private clubs against its own members.

Private clubs and associations which are licensed to serve alcoholic beverages could have those licenses suspended or revoked if they are found guilty of discriminating against any of their members. All violations will be referred to John Holl, Director of ABC, who will determine penalties on a case-by-case basis.

S-1656/ A-432, was sponsored by Senator Robert Singer (R- Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Assembly Members John Kelly (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Barbara Wright (R-Mercer/Middlesex).

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