



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### NEWS RELEASE

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### **Gov. Christie Whitman Signs Legislation Requiring Licensing of Rooming Houses Caring for Residents with Special Needs**

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed legislation requiring operators of rooming houses or boarding houses offering personal care services to residents with special needs to obtain licenses to operate from the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). This includes boarding houses caring for residents with Alzheimer's disease.

The legislation amends the Rooming and Boarding House Act. It requires the Commissioner of the DCA to adopt regulations which specify standards to be met by rooming and boarding houses offering care to special needs residents. These regulations shall apply to staffing levels, staff qualifications and training, special dietary needs, special supervision requirements and building safety requirements.

Additionally, DCA's regulations shall also require special health monitoring of residents by licensed health care professionals and include a requirement that a medical assessment be performed on a resident with special needs prior to admission and on a quarterly basis thereafter. The regulations also will set criteria for discharging residents.

The bill, **A-2628**, was sponsored by Assembly Members Charlotte Vandervalk (R-Bergen) and John E. Rooney (R-Bergen).

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