

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-1900, sponsored by Assembly Members Joseph R. Malone, 3d (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Melvin Cottrell (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Senators Robert W. Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Walter J. Kavanaugh (R-Morris/Somerset), imposes a continuing education requirement for certified shorthand reporters. Currently, certified shorthand reporters may renew their licenses by paying a renewal fee. The bill conditions the license renewals upon completion of continuing education courses. Under the bill, the State Board of Shorthand Reporting will set standards for continuing education requirements, including the content of seminars, the selection of instructors, and the number of credits. Shorthand reporters will be required to complete a continuing education program every two years as a condition of license renewal. The intent of the bill is to require certified shorthand reporters to keep abreast of changing technology and complicated ethical issues affecting the field.

A-2380, sponsored by Assembly Members Jeffrey W. Moran (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean) and Christopher J. Connors (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean) and Senators Leonard T. Connors (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean) and Wayne R. Bryant (D-Camden/Gloucester), amends the Planning Board Act to increase the maximum population of municipalities that are authorized to permit their nine member planning boards to exercise the powers of a board of adjustment. Currently, the maximum population authorized for municipalities to exercise such powers is 10,000 residents. The bill raises the maximum population to 15,000 residents.