



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Christie Whitman Conditionally Vetoes Legislation

Governor Christie Whitman has conditionally vetoed the following legislation:

A-2717, sponsored by Assembly members E. Scott Garrett (R- District 24) and Raul Garcia (D-District 33) and Senator Joseph Kyrillos (R-District 13), which amends current law requiring out-of-state insurers authorized to write automobile insurance in New Jersey to provide out-of-state insureds with the same liability, uninsured motorist and personal injury protection (PIP) coverage required of New Jersey drivers when operating an automobile in New Jersey, by providing that the out-of-state insurer must also be transacting automobile or motor vehicle insurance business to be subject to this requirement.

The Governor believes that one of the prime objectives of automobile insurance is to provide for the prompt payment of medical expenses incurred as the result of an accident. Due to a concern that this bill would deny certain legally uninsured New Jersey residents, such as pedestrians and passengers, such medical coverage, the Governor's conditional veto recommends that PIP coverage continue to be required consistent with current law.

A-2479, sponsored by Assembly members Walter Kavanaugh (R- District 16), Joseph Malone (R-District 30), and Senators Robert Singer (R-District 30) and John Ewing (R-District 16) which would establish the "Ticket Brokering Study Commission," to conduct an 18-month study of whether a deregulated or regulated market for ticket brokering would best serve consumers. The bill also provides that, during the study period, the market for tickets be deregulated.

The Governor's conditional veto recommends that the composition of the commission be modified to allow for the appointment of one additional member of the general public; that the market for tickets remain regulated for purposes of the study and to safeguard consumers during the study period; and shortens the time period for the study to four months. The conditional veto additionally recommends that the commission also study the issue of how best to ensure the public's equal access to tickets.

S-1303, sponsored by Senators John Lynch (D-District 17) and William Gormley (R-District 2), and Assemblymen Paul DiGaetano (R- District 36) and Leroy Jones (D-District 27), which authorizes municipalities to establish joint municipal lien pools to sell municipal liens in bulk and to issue bonds and notes using the liens held by the pool as collateral. The bill supplements legislation recently signed by the Governor -- S- 1091 and S- 1456 -- allowing municipalities to sell their tax liens, or if they choose, their entire tax levy. In tandem, these laws will afford local government greater flexibility in controlling property taxes by providing alternatives for the sale and disposal of tax liens and levies.

Whitman said that while she supports the legislation, she has been advised that the bill can be improved through the adoption of a number of technical and clarifying amendments. For example, the conditional veto defines the term "municipal liens;" requires that a joint municipal lien pool adopt bylaws to govern the conduct of its affairs and directs the pool to employ a certified tax collector to perform those functions and responsibilities normally performed by a tax collector with regard to municipal liens. The conditional veto also authorizes a pool to contract for the purchase of supplies and other needs as the pool may require.

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