

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE: April 13, 1999

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed the following pieces of legislation:

A-2370, sponsored by Assembly Members George F. Geist (R-Camden/Gloucester) and Leonard Lance (R-Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer) and Senators William E. Schluter (R-Warren/Hunterdon /Mercer) and Edward T. O'Connor, Jr. (D-Hudson), expands the definition of a candidate under the New Jersey Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting Act to include an individual considering whether to be a candidate for public office. The bill requires persons who are "testing the waters" for candidacy for public office to file reports with the ELEC???like officially declared candidates. The bill eliminates exploratory committees typically used by candidates for governor or other offices to examine their prospects before formally opening a campaign. Under previous law, candidates were not required to reveal the amount or source of contributions to an exploratory committee.

S-175, sponsored by Senator John O. Bennett (R-Monmouth), authorizes the director of the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue special license plates to recipients of the Navy Cross, a decoration awarded by the United States Navy for exceptional heroism in action. The special license plants will bear the word "Navy Cross" and depict the Navy Cross emblem. In addition to fees otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of motor vehicles, there will be a \$15 fee for the cost of producing and issuing the special license plates.