



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NEWS RELEASE

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Gov. Whitman Proposes Increasing Penalties for Amusement Ride Violations

Gov. Christie Whitman today sent to the Legislature proposed legislation to strengthen New Jersey's Carnival Amusement Ride Safety Act.

According to state Labor Commissioner, Mel Gelade, the proposed changes would provide stronger penalties to enhance the ability of the Department of Labor to enforce and promote safety on carnival amusement rides in New Jersey by granting the Department of Labor the ability to revoke permits and issue stiffer penalties.

People need to feel safe when they go on these kinds of rides. Gov. Whitman said, "We intend to give the Department of Labor the tools it needs to ensure that the rides are properly maintained and operated.

According to Commissioner Gelade, "The majority of ride operators in New Jersey are committed to providing safe, entertaining experiences. With a maximum penalty of \$5,000 per violation per day, we will send a strong message that safety is a serious concern." Gelade added, "The ability to revoke or suspend permits should make operators that much more aware of their need to run rides as safely as possible."

Gelade said that the proposed changes increase the current \$500 per day penalty to \$5,000 and will also allow the Department to revoke a permit to operate a ride. "If we find an operator who will not comply with the law, the ability to revoke a permit will let us make sure that they will not be putting people in danger in New Jersey."

