



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

### NEWS RELEASE

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### Gov. Whitman Inks Bills: Increases Penalties for Persons Who Knowingly Transmit AIDS or HIV

Gov. Christie Whitman signed a bill today that makes it a crime of the third degree to transmit AIDS or HIV to a sexual partner while fully knowing that you are infected with the disease.

"AIDS is one of the biggest threats to the health and safety of our society," Gov. Whitman said. "It is unconscionable for one person to knowingly pass on a disease that could kill someone else. That's why this legislation is so important. Now, those who transmit the disease knowing that they are putting someone else in danger will have to face penalties including jail time."

Prior to enactment of this legislation, knowingly infecting someone with a sexually transmitted disease without their consent only resulted in a disorderly persons offense charge. Now, those people who knowingly pass AIDS or HIV onto another person face a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$7,500 fine.

**S-1297 / A- 2084** was sponsored by Senators John P. Scott (R-Bergen / Essex / Passaic) and James S. Cafiero (R-Cape May / Atlantic / Cumberland) and Assembly members Charlotte Vandervalk (R-Bergen) and David C. Russo (R-Bergen / Passaic).

Gov. Whitman also signed the following bills:

- **S-1794/A-2665**, sponsored by Senator Jack Ewing (R- Morris/Somerset) and Assembly Members Rich Bagger (Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and Craig Stanley (D- Essex), provides payment of tuition for certain children for whom the state has assumed fiscal responsibility. The bill requires the Department of Education to pay tuition costs to the eligible state agency for the tuition of a child, under state fiscal responsibility, that is placed in a private residential facility. Currently, there are 59 children in this situation.
- **S-128/A-1994**, sponsored by Senator Joe Kyrillos (R- Middlesex/Monmouth) and Assembly Members Rich Bagger and Alan Augustine (R-Middlesex/Morris/ Somerset/Union), provides workers' compensation coverage for certain Department of Environmental Protection volunteers.
- **S-1170/A-2518**, sponsored by Senators Joe Kyrillos (Middlesex/Monmouth) and Joe Palaia (R-Monmouth) and Assembly Member Joe Azzolina (R-Middlesex/Monmouth), requires school board to notify the State Board of Examiners whenever certain employees are dismissed. The law concerns non-tenured, certified employees who are dismissed for cause.
- **A-2883/S-2113**, sponsored by Assembly Members Nilsa Cruz- Perez (D-Camden/Gloucester) and John Kelly (R- Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Senator Bernard Kenny (D- Hudson) provides gross income tax filing extensions for Armed Forces personnel serving in combat zones or qualified hazardous duty areas. Previously, extensions were only provided for those serving in combat zones.
- **A-2676/S-1836**, sponsored by Assembly Member Leonard Lance (R-Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer) and Senators William Gormley (R-Atlantic) and Edward O'Connor (D-Hudson), permits money held by the Superior Court to be invested in programs managed by the Division of Investment.

- **A-2361/S-1988**, sponsored by Assembly Members Neil Cohen (D-Union) and Kip Bateman (R-Morris/Somerset) and Senators John Adler (D-Camden) and Peter Inverso (R- Mercer/Middlesex), provides for optional contributory death benefit coverage for members of the Judicial Retirement System.
- **A-2220/S-1578**, sponsored by Assembly Member Rich Bagger (Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and John Wisniewski (D-Middlesex) and Senator John Mattheussen (R-Camden/ Gloucester), adopts the practice used in federal courts for the inter-district enforcement of judgments, decrees or orders of a court of the United States. The bill relieves creditors and debtors of the additional cost of further litigation currently experienced when attempting to enforce a foreign judgment.
- **A-1678**, sponsored by Assembly Members Scott Garrett (R- Sussex/Hunterdon/ Morris) and Guy Gregg (R- Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris), limits jurisdiction of the Board of Public Utilities over certain consumer-owned water companies. The bill limits the board's jurisdiction over non-profit, non-publicly owned water companies that are owned and controlled exclusively by the consumers they serve.