

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

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

S-1418, sponsored by Senators Robert E. Littell (R- Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris) and John O. Bennett (R-Monmouth) and Assembly Members Joseph Azzolina (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and Rose Marie Heck (R-Bergen), changes the recommended contributions to the various charitable check off boxes on the New Jersey gross income tax return. The legislation changes the check off boxes from \$5 and \$10 to \$10 and \$20.

S-824, sponsored by Senator Louis F. Kosco (R-Bergen) and Assembly Member John V. Kelly (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic), makes knowingly engaging in the business of electrical contracting without a business permit issued by the Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors a crime of the fourth degree under certain circumstances. Current law classifies the practice of electrical contracting as a disorderly persons offense. A disorderly persons offense is punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 or a prison sentence of up to six months. A crime of the fourth degree is punishable by a fine up to \$10,000 or a prison sentence of up to 18 months.

S-859, sponsored by Senator C. Louis Bassano (R-Essex/Union) and Robert J. Martin (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic), designates the Forensic Psychiatric Hospital as the Ann Klein Forensic Center in honor of the late Ann Klein's distinguished record of public service to New Jersey and her effort to improve the lives of others. The Forensic Psychiatric Hospital, located on the grounds of the Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, is the only forensic facility of its kind in the state, providing psychiatric, nursing and medical care to persons incarcerated because of mental illness. Ann Klein, who was a Commissioner of Human Services during Governor Brendan Byrne's administration, worked to improve conditions for incarcerated persons with mental illness and proposed initiatives that led to the development of a forensic facility at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital. Ann Klein died in 1986.