

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Signs Slamming, Organ Donor Bills into Law

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

S-1073, sponsored by Senators Gerald Cardinale (R- Bergen), Robert Singer (R- Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Peter Inverso (R-Mercer/Middlesex) and Assembly Members Rose Heck (R-Bergen), Kevin O'Toole (R-Essex/Union), Claire Farragher (R-Monmouth) and Steve Corodemus (R-Monmouth), which establishes procedures for authorizing changes in telecommunications service providers. The bill is intended to prohibit the practice of "slamming," which involves the unauthorized switching of a customer's telecommunications provider without their customer's consent. Specifically, the legislation prohibits service providers from making any change in service on behalf of a client without complying with authorization and confirmation procedures established by the Board of Public Utilities or federal law. Violators of the provisions of this bill will be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$7,500 for a first offense and up to \$15,000 for a subsequent offense associated with a specific access line within the state.

S-543, sponsored by Senators Martha Bark (R- Atlantic/Burlington/Camden) and John Matheussen (R- Camden/Gloucester) and Assembly Members Francis Bodine (R- Atlantic/Burlington/Camden) and Larry Chatzidakis (R- Atlantic/Burlington/Camden), provides that a family member or other loved one cannot revoke the decision previously made by a now-deceased person who signed an organ or tissue donation card or directive. The purpose of the law is to ensure compliance with the wishes of persons who indicate their intention to donate organs or tissues upon death.