

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
Wendi Patella 609-777-2600

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Governor Christie Whitman today signed the following:

Assembly Joint Resolution 48, sponsored by Assembly Members Clare Farragher (R-Monmouth) and Samuel Thompson (R- Middlesex/Monmouth) and Senators Joseph Kyrillos (R- Middlesex/Monmouth) and Donald DiFrancesco (R- Middlesex/Morris/ Somerset/Union), designates a portion of Route 9 in Old Bridge as the Joann H. Smith Memorial Highway. The highway is named to honor the late Assemblywoman for her valuable service as a legislator and local official.

A-1730, sponsored by Assemblyman Paul Kramer (R- Mercer/Middlesex) and Senators Peter Inverso (R- Mercer/Middlesex) and Raymond Lesniak (D-Union), clarifies exemption from gross income tax of nonresident earnings from hedge fund investments. The law also provides additional remedy for taxpayers assessed deficiencies, affects certain state tax penalty provisions, and changes the requirements for estimated quarterly payments.

A-261, sponsored by Assembly Members Guy Talarico (R- Bergen), Ken LeFevre (R-Atlantic) and John Kelly (R- Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Senators Andrew Ciesla (R- Monmouth/Ocean) and Louis Kosco (R-Bergen), which clarifies that state Lottery prizes may be assigned to persons other than the winner in certain circumstances. Under the bill, a person wishing to assign a lottery prize to another individual would have to obtain permission from state or federal court.

A-754, sponsored by Assembly Members Nicholas Asselta (R- Cape May/Atlantic/ Cumberland) and Neil Cohen (D-Union), provides for the sale of check cashing businesses under certain circumstances. The bill clarifies that owners of check cashing businesses may sell their businesses even though the office is within 2,500 feet of another check cashing business or is engaging in a business other than primarily check cashing. The previous law was unclear on this issue.

A-848, sponsored by Assembly Members Clare Farragher (R- Monmouth) and Michael Arnone (R-Monmouth), which regulates sales of horses and prohibits mistreatment of horses. The bill is intended to address concerns raised by a horse owner regarding the maltreatment of horses at a local auction. The bill amends existing law to ensure that all types of horses are protected from abuse. Previous law protected only horses as work" animals, and failed to address horses used in recreation, shows and as pets. The bill provides for monetary penalties of between \$200 to \$500 for violations of its provisions.

A-1750, sponsored by Assembly Members Merkt (R-Morris) and Murphy (R- Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Senators Bucco (R-Morris) and Donald DiFrancesco (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union), appropriates an additional \$2 million to the Department of Community Affairs for expansion and refurbishment of fire training facilities at the Morris County Fire and Police Academy Life Safety Complex. Volunteer firefighters in the 39 municipalities of Morris County will use the complex. The facility will also be available for use by police and fire organizations throughout the state.