

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

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

A-1654, amends previous law by adding additional offenses that disqualify a person from obtaining courtesy, personalized or special organization license plates. The bill also eases the restrictions on obtaining personalized or special organization license plates. Under previous law, a person who has been convicted of death by auto, drunk driving or reckless driving was prohibited from obtaining courtesy, personalized or special organization license plates, regardless of when the person was convicted of the offense. The legislation supplements previous law by adding two disqualifying offenses: (1) a conviction for refusing to take a breathalyzer test; and (2) a conviction for an offense in another jurisdiction that is substantially similar in nature to drunk driving, reckless driving or refusing to take a breathalyzer test.

The bill eases the restrictions on the issuance of personalized and special organization license plates by allowing a person who has been convicted of drunk driving, reckless driving, refusing to take a breathalyzer test or a substantially similar offense in another jurisdiction to obtain such a license plate if the conviction occurred more than ten years ago. Under previous law, the restriction carried a lifetime disqualification. The bill does not ease the lifetime disqualification accorded a death by auto conviction.

The legislation was sponsored by Assembly Members Nicholas Asselta (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and John C. Gibson (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Senators James S. Cafiero (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Donald T. DiFrancesco (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union).

S-28, amends previous law and authorizes the Commissioner of Labor to enter into reciprocal agreements with the labor departments or corresponding agencies of other states to collect claims, judgments for outstanding wages, or other administrative fees and penalties due under wage and hour laws. Such agreements will allow the Commissioner to bring lawsuits in the courts of other states and assign the collection of claims and judgements to appropriate agencies in other states. Similarly, other states that have entered into reciprocal agreements could file lawsuits and seek collection in New Jersey.

The legislation was sponsored by Senators Walter J. Kavanaugh (R-Morris/Somerset) and Henry P. McNamara (R-Bergen/Passaic) and Assembly Members Kenneth C. LeFevre (R-Atlantic) and George F. Geist (R-Camden/Gloucester).