



**SENATE, No. 924**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**209th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2000

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator GERALD CARDINALE**

**District 39 (Bergen)**

**Senator PETER A. INVERSO**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides for continuing education for marriage and family therapists.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



S924 CARDINALE, INVERSO

2

1 AN ACT concerning the licensure of marriage and family therapists and  
2 amending and supplementing P.L.1968, c.401.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

6  
7 1. Section 2 of P.L.1968, c.401 (C.45:8B-2) is amended to read as  
8 follows:

9 2. As used in this act, unless the context clearly requires otherwise  
10 and except as in this act expressly otherwise provided:

11 (a) "Licensed marriage and family therapist" means an individual  
12 to whom a license has been issued pursuant to the provisions of this  
13 act, which license is in force and not suspended or revoked as of the  
14 particular time in question.

15 (b) The "practice of marriage and family therapy" means the  
16 rendering of professional marriage and family therapy services to  
17 individuals, couples and families, singly or in groups, whether in the  
18 general public or in organizations, either public or private, for a fee,  
19 monetary or otherwise. "Marriage and family therapy" is a specialized  
20 field of therapy which includes [~~premarital~~] couples counseling [~~and~~  
21 ~~therapy, pre- and post-divorce counseling and therapy,~~] and family  
22 therapy and means the diagnosis and treatment of mental and  
23 emotional disorders, whether cognitive, affective, or behavioral, within  
24 the context of marriage and family systems. [The practice of  
25 marriage] Marriage and family therapy [consists of] involves the  
26 professional application of [principles, methods and techniques of  
27 counseling and psychotherapy for the purpose of resolving  
28 psychological conflict, modifying perception and behavior, altering old  
29 attitudes and establishing new ones in the area of marriage and family  
30 life] psychotherapeutic and family systems theories and techniques in  
31 the delivery of services to individuals, couples and families for the  
32 purpose of treating diagnosed emotional and mental disorders in the  
33 area of marriage and family life. [In its concern with the antecedents  
34 of marriage, with the vicissitudes of marriage, and with the  
35 consequences of the failure of marriage, marriage and family therapy  
36 keeps in sight its objective of enabling clients to achieve the optimal  
37 adjustment consistent with their welfare as individuals, as members of  
38 a family, and as citizens in society.]

39 (c) "Board" means the State Board of Marriage and Family  
40 Therapy Examiners acting as such under the provisions of this act.

41 (d) "Recognized educational institution" means any educational  
42 institution which grants the bachelor's, master's and doctor's degrees,  
43 or any one or more thereof, and which is recognized by the

**EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

1 Commission on Higher Education or by any accrediting body  
2 acceptable to the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy  
3 Examiners.

4 (cf: P.L.1995, c.366, s.2)

5

6 2. (New section) a. The State Board of Marriage and Family  
7 Therapy Examiners shall require each marriage and family therapist,  
8 as a condition of biennial license renewal pursuant to section 1 of  
9 P.L.1972, c.108 (C.45:1-7), to complete any continuing education  
10 requirements imposed by the board pursuant to this section.

11 b. The board shall:

12 (1) Promulgate rules and regulations for implementing  
13 continuing education requirements as a condition of license renewal  
14 for licenses issued under its jurisdiction;

15 (2) Establish standards for continuing education, including the  
16 subject matter and content of courses of study, and the number and  
17 type of continuing education credits required of a licensee as a  
18 condition of biennial license renewal;

19 (3) Recognize the American Association for Marriage and  
20 Family Therapy and the New Jersey Division of the American  
21 Association for Marriage and Family Therapy as certified record  
22 keeping services and certified providers of continuing education, and  
23 accredit other equivalent educational programs, including, but not  
24 limited to, meetings of constituents and components of marriage and  
25 family associations recognized by the board, examinations, papers,  
26 publications, presentations, teaching and research appointments, and  
27 shall establish procedures for the issuance of credit upon satisfactory  
28 proof of the completion of these programs. In the case of education  
29 courses or programs, each hour of instruction shall be equivalent to  
30 one credit; and

31 (4) Approve only those continuing education programs as are  
32 available to all marriage and family therapists in this State on a  
33 reasonable nondiscriminatory basis.

34

35 3. (New section) The board may, in its discretion, waive  
36 requirements for continuing education on an individual basis for  
37 reasons of hardship, such as health or other good cause.

38

39 4. (New section) The board shall not require completion of  
40 continuing education credits for initial registrations. The board shall  
41 not require completion of continuing education credits for any  
42 registration periods commencing within 12 months of the effective  
43 date of this amendatory and supplementary act. The board shall  
44 require completion of continuing education credits on a pro rata basis  
45 for any registration periods commencing more than 12 but less than 24  
46 months following the effective date of this amendatory and

1 supplementary act.

2

3 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

4

5

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STATEMENT

7

8 This bill requires marriage and family therapists to complete  
9 continuing education requirements as a condition of biennial license  
10 renewal. The bill provides that the State Board of Marriage and  
11 Family Therapy Examiners shall: establish standards for continuing  
12 education, including subject matter and content of courses of study,  
13 and the number and type of continuing education credits required of  
14 a licensee as a condition of biennial license renewal; recognize the  
15 American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy and the New  
16 Jersey Division of the American Association for Marriage and Family  
17 Therapy as certified record keeping services and as certified providers  
18 of continuing education and accredit other equivalent educational  
19 programs; and approve only those continuing education programs  
20 which are available to all marriage and family therapists in this State  
21 on a reasonable nondiscriminatory basis. Waivers of these continuing  
22 education requirements may be granted by the board on an individual  
23 basis due to hardship.

24 Finally, the bill modifies the definition of the practice of marriage  
25 and family therapy to reflect the current educational standards  
26 promulgated by the board.

[First Reprint]  
**SENATE, No. 924**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**209th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2000

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator GERALD CARDINALE**

**District 39 (Bergen)**

**Senator PETER A. INVERSO**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

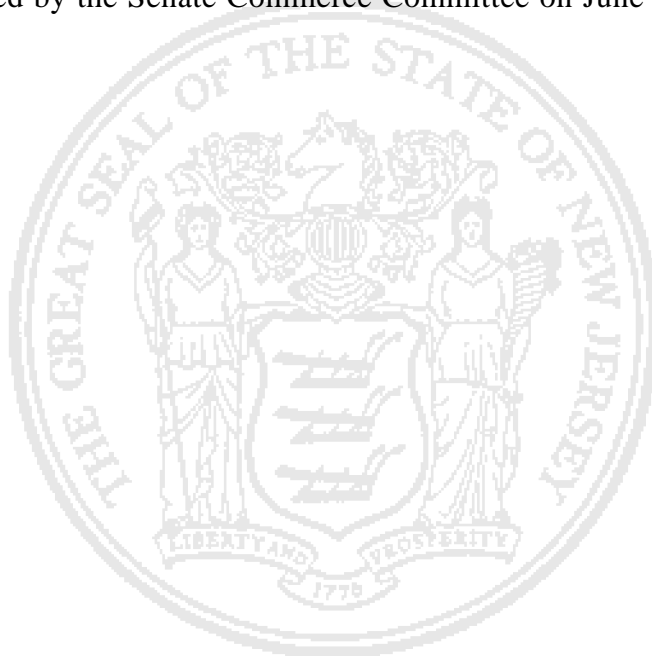
**Senator Baer, Assemblymen Moran and Impreveduto**

**SYNOPSIS**

Provides for continuing education for marriage and family therapists.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Commerce Committee on June 15, 2000, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2000)**

1 AN ACT concerning the licensure of marriage and family therapists and  
2 <sup>1</sup>[amending and]<sup>1</sup> supplementing P.L.1968, c.401 <sup>1</sup>(C.45:8B-1 et  
3 seq.)<sup>1</sup>.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 <sup>1</sup>[1. Section 2 of P.L.1968, c.401 (C.45:8B-2) is amended to read  
9 as follows:

10 2. As used in this act, unless the context clearly requires otherwise  
11 and except as in this act expressly otherwise provided:

12 (a) "Licensed marriage and family therapist" means an individual  
13 to whom a license has been issued pursuant to the provisions of this  
14 act, which license is in force and not suspended or revoked as of the  
15 particular time in question.

16 (b) The "practice of marriage and family therapy" means the  
17 rendering of professional marriage and family therapy services to  
18 individuals, couples and families, singly or in groups, whether in the  
19 general public or in organizations, either public or private, for a fee,  
20 monetary or otherwise. "Marriage and family therapy" is a specialized  
21 field of therapy which includes [premarital] couples counseling [and  
22 therapy, pre- and post-divorce counseling and therapy,] and family  
23 therapy and means the diagnosis and treatment of mental and  
24 emotional disorders, whether cognitive, affective, or behavioral, within  
25 the context of marriage and family systems. [The practice of  
26 marriage] Marriage and family therapy [consists of] involves the  
27 professional application of [principles, methods and techniques of  
28 counseling and psychotherapy for the purpose of resolving  
29 psychological conflict, modifying perception and behavior, altering old  
30 attitudes and establishing new ones in the area of marriage and family  
31 life] psychotherapeutic and family systems theories and techniques in  
32 the delivery of services to individuals, couples and families for the  
33 purpose of treating diagnosed emotional and mental disorders in the  
34 area of marriage and family life. [In its concern with the antecedents  
35 of marriage, with the vicissitudes of marriage, and with the  
36 consequences of the failure of marriage, marriage and family therapy  
37 keeps in sight its objective of enabling clients to achieve the optimal  
38 adjustment consistent with their welfare as individuals, as members of  
39 a family, and as citizens in society.]

40 (c) "Board" means the State Board of Marriage and Family  
41 Therapy Examiners acting as such under the provisions of this act.

**EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

<sup>1</sup> Senate SCM committee amendments adopted June 15, 2000.

1 (d) "Recognized educational institution" means any educational  
2 institution which grants the bachelor's, master's and doctor's degrees,  
3 or any one or more thereof, and which is recognized by the  
4 Commission on Higher Education or by any accrediting body  
5 acceptable to the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy  
6 Examiners.

7 (cf: P.L.1995, c.366, s.2)]<sup>1</sup>

8

9 <sup>1</sup>[2. ] 1.<sup>1</sup> a. The State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy  
10 Examiners shall require each marriage and family therapist, as a  
11 condition of biennial license renewal pursuant to section 1 of  
12 P.L.1972, c.108 (C.45:1-7), to complete any continuing education  
13 requirements imposed by the board pursuant to this section.

14 b. The board shall:

15 (1) Promulgate rules and regulations for implementing  
16 continuing education requirements as a condition of license renewal  
17 for licenses issued under its jurisdiction;

18 (2) Establish standards for continuing education, including the  
19 subject matter and content of courses of study, and the number and  
20 type of continuing education credits required of a licensee as a  
21 condition of biennial license renewal;

22 (3) Recognize the American Association for Marriage and  
23 Family Therapy <sup>1</sup>[and] <sup>1</sup>, the New Jersey Division of the American  
24 Association for Marriage and Family Therapy <sup>1</sup>and other  
25 organizations<sup>1</sup> as <sup>1</sup>[certified record keeping services and certified]<sup>1</sup>  
26 providers of continuing education, and accredit <sup>1</sup>[other equivalent]<sup>1</sup>  
27 educational programs, including, but not limited to, meetings of  
28 constituents and components of marriage and family <sup>1</sup>therapy<sup>1</sup>  
29 associations recognized by the board, examinations, papers,  
30 publications, presentations, teaching and research appointments, and  
31 shall establish procedures for the issuance of credit upon satisfactory  
32 proof of the completion of these programs. In the case of education  
33 courses or programs, each hour of instruction shall be equivalent to  
34 one credit; and

35 (4) Approve only those continuing education programs as are  
36 available to all marriage and family therapists in this State on a  
37 reasonable nondiscriminatory basis.

38

39 <sup>1</sup>[3.] 2.<sup>1</sup> The board may, in its discretion, waive requirements for  
40 continuing education on an individual basis for reasons of hardship,  
41 such as health or other good cause.

42

43 <sup>1</sup>[4. (New section)] 3.<sup>1</sup> The board shall not require completion of  
44 continuing education credits for initial registrations. The board shall  
45 not require completion of continuing education credits for any  
46 registration periods commencing within 12 months of the effective



S924 [1R] CARDINALE, INVERSO

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1 date of this <sup>1</sup>[amendatory and supplementary]<sup>1</sup> act. The board shall  
2 require completion of continuing education credits on a pro rata basis  
3 for any registration periods commencing more than 12 but less than 24  
4 months following the effective date of this <sup>1</sup>[amendatory and  
5 supplementary]<sup>1</sup> act.

6

7 <sup>1</sup>[5.] 4.<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.

# SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **SENATE, No. 924**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JUNE 15, 2000

The Senate Commerce Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 924.

As amended, this bill requires marriage and family therapists to complete continuing education requirements as a condition of biennial license renewal. The bill provides that the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners shall: establish standards for continuing education, including subject matter and content of courses of study, and the number and type of continuing education credits required of a licensee as a condition of biennial license renewal; recognize the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, the New Jersey Division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and other organizations as providers of continuing education, and accredit educational programs; and approve only those continuing education programs which are available to all marriage and family therapists in this State on a reasonable nondiscriminatory basis. Waivers of these continuing education requirements may be granted by the board on an individual basis due to hardship.

P.L. 2000, CHAPTER 119, *approved September 13, 2000*  
Senate, No. 924 (*First Reprint*)

1 ANACT concerning the licensure of marriage and family therapists and  
2 <sup>1</sup>[amending and]<sup>1</sup> supplementing P.L.1968, c.401 <sup>1</sup>(C.45:8B-1 et  
3 seq.)<sup>1</sup>.  
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:  
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8 <sup>1</sup>[1. Section 2 of P.L.1968, c.401 (C.45:8B-2) is amended to read  
9 as follows:

10 2. As used in this act, unless the context clearly requires otherwise  
11 and except as in this act expressly otherwise provided:

12 (a) "Licensed marriage and family therapist" means an individual  
13 to whom a license has been issued pursuant to the provisions of this  
14 act, which license is in force and not suspended or revoked as of the  
15 particular time in question.

16 (b) The "practice of marriage and family therapy" means the  
17 rendering of professional marriage and family therapy services to  
18 individuals, couples and families, singly or in groups, whether in the  
19 general public or in organizations, either public or private, for a fee,  
20 monetary or otherwise. "Marriage and family therapy" is a specialized  
21 field of therapy which includes [premarital] couples counseling [and  
22 therapy, pre- and post-divorce counseling and therapy,] and family  
23 therapy and means the diagnosis and treatment of mental and  
24 emotional disorders, whether cognitive, affective, or behavioral, within  
25 the context of marriage and family systems. [The practice of  
26 marriage] Marriage and family therapy [consists of] involves the  
27 professional application of [principles, methods and techniques of  
28 counseling and psychotherapy for the purpose of resolving  
29 psychological conflict, modifying perception and behavior, altering old  
30 attitudes and establishing new ones in the area of marriage and family  
31 life] psychotherapeutic and family systems theories and techniques in  
32 the delivery of services to individuals, couples and families for the  
33 purpose of treating diagnosed emotional and mental disorders in the  
34 area of marriage and family life. [In its concern with the antecedents  
35 of marriage, with the vicissitudes of marriage, and with the  
36 consequences of the failure of marriage, marriage and family therapy  
37 keeps in sight its objective of enabling clients to achieve the optimal  
38 adjustment consistent with their welfare as individuals, as members of

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**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

<sup>1</sup> Senate SCM committee amendments adopted June 15, 2000.

1 a family, and as citizens in society.]

2 (c) "Board" means the State Board of Marriage and Family  
3 Therapy Examiners acting as such under the provisions of this act.

4 (d) "Recognized educational institution" means any educational  
5 institution which grants the bachelor's, master's and doctor's degrees,  
6 or any one or more thereof, and which is recognized by the  
7 Commission on Higher Education or by any accrediting body  
8 acceptable to the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy  
9 Examiners.

10 (cf: P.L.1995, c.366, s.2)]<sup>1</sup>

11

12 <sup>1</sup>[2. ] 1.<sup>1</sup> a. The State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy  
13 Examiners shall require each marriage and family therapist, as a  
14 condition of biennial license renewal pursuant to section 1 of  
15 P.L.1972, c.108 (C.45:1-7), to complete any continuing education  
16 requirements imposed by the board pursuant to this section.

17 b. The board shall:

18 (1) Promulgate rules and regulations for implementing  
19 continuing education requirements as a condition of license renewal  
20 for licenses issued under its jurisdiction;

21 (2) Establish standards for continuing education, including the  
22 subject matter and content of courses of study, and the number and  
23 type of continuing education credits required of a licensee as a  
24 condition of biennial license renewal;

25 (3) Recognize the American Association for Marriage and  
26 Family Therapy <sup>1</sup>[and] <sup>1</sup>the New Jersey Division of the American  
27 Association for Marriage and Family Therapy <sup>1</sup>and other  
28 organizations<sup>1</sup> as <sup>1</sup>[certified record keeping services and certified]<sup>1</sup>  
29 providers of continuing education, and accredit <sup>1</sup>[other equivalent]<sup>1</sup>  
30 educational programs, including, but not limited to, meetings of  
31 constituents and components of marriage and family <sup>1</sup>therapy<sup>1</sup>  
32 associations recognized by the board, examinations, papers,  
33 publications, presentations, teaching and research appointments, and  
34 shall establish procedures for the issuance of credit upon satisfactory  
35 proof of the completion of these programs. In the case of education  
36 courses or programs, each hour of instruction shall be equivalent to  
37 one credit; and

38 (4) Approve only those continuing education programs as are  
39 available to all marriage and family therapists in this State on a  
40 reasonable nondiscriminatory basis.

41

42 <sup>1</sup>[3.] 2.<sup>1</sup> The board may, in its discretion, waive requirements for  
43 continuing education on an individual basis for reasons of hardship,  
44 such as health or other good cause.

45

46 <sup>1</sup>[4. (New section)] 3.<sup>1</sup> The board shall not require completion of

1 continuing education credits for initial registrations. The board shall  
2 not require completion of continuing education credits for any  
3 registration periods commencing within 12 months of the effective  
4 date of this <sup>1</sup>[amendatory and supplementary]<sup>1</sup> act. The board shall  
5 require completion of continuing education credits on a pro rata basis  
6 for any registration periods commencing more than 12 but less than 24  
7 months following the effective date of this <sup>1</sup>[amendatory and  
8 supplementary]<sup>1</sup> act.

9

10 <sup>1</sup>[5.] 4.<sup>1</sup> This act shall take effect immediately.

11

12

13

14

15 Provides for continuing education for marriage and family therapists.

## CHAPTER 119

AN ACT concerning the licensure of marriage and family therapists and supplementing P.L.1968, c.401(C.45:8B-1 et seq.).

**BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

C.45:8B-24.1 Continuing education requirements for marriage and family therapists.

1. a. The State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners shall require each marriage and family therapist, as a condition of biennial license renewal pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1972, c.108 (C.45:1-7), to complete any continuing education requirements imposed by the board pursuant to this section.

b. The board shall:

(1) Promulgate rules and regulations for implementing continuing education requirements as a condition of license renewal for licenses issued under its jurisdiction;

(2) Establish standards for continuing education, including the subject matter and content of courses of study, and the number and type of continuing education credits required of a licensee as a condition of biennial license renewal;

(3) Recognize the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, the New Jersey Division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and other organizations as providers of continuing education, and accredit educational programs, including, but not limited to, meetings of constituents and components of marriage and family therapy associations recognized by the board, examinations, papers, publications, presentations, teaching and research appointments, and shall establish procedures for the issuance of credit upon satisfactory proof of the completion of these programs. In the case of education courses or programs, each hour of instruction shall be equivalent to one credit; and

(4) Approve only those continuing education programs as are available to all marriage and family therapists in this State on a reasonable nondiscriminatory basis.

C.45:8B-24.2 Waiver of continuing education requirement.

2. The board may, in its discretion, waive requirements for continuing education on an individual basis for reasons of hardship, such as health or other good cause.

C.45:8B-24.3 Continuing education credits not required for initial registration.

3. The board shall not require completion of continuing education credits for initial registrations. The board shall not require completion of continuing education credits for any registration periods commencing within 12 months of the effective date of this act. The board shall require completion of continuing education credits on a pro rata basis for any registration periods commencing more than 12 but less than 24 months following the effective date of this act.

4. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved September 13, 2000.

PO BOX 004  
TRENTON, NJ 08625

*Office of the Governor*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor  
Laura Otterbourg  
609-777-2600

RELEASE: September 13, 2000

**Governor Signs Legislation Mandating Expansion of DNA Usage**

Governor Christie Whitman today signed legislation broadening the group of defendants from which blood samples for DNA testing must be drawn.

"With the passage of this bill, I believe that law enforcement will be better able to identify criminal suspects," said Gov. Whitman. "Our latest Uniform Crime Report from 1999 showed a six percent drop in overall crime with the total number of criminal offenses at its lowest level in 27 years, and now the broadening of DNA collection will be yet another tool in helping law enforcement win new battles in the fight against crime in New Jersey."

"We can't take sole responsibility for the decline in crime, but the stronger laws we've enacted and the support we've given the police have surely helped," added the Governor. "This legislation is one more example of how we are working hard, together with our police, to make New Jersey a safer place in which to live, work and raise a family."

The bill, S-439, was sponsored by Senators Sacco (D-Bergen/Hudson) and Sinagra (R-Middlesex) and Assembly Members Holzapfel (R-Monmouth/Ocean) and Moran (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean). It requires that blood samples be drawn from persons convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity of murder, manslaughter, second-degree aggravated assault, first- and second-degree kidnapping, luring or enticing a child, engaging in sexual conduct which would impair the morals of a child - or attempting to commit one of these offenses. DNA samples will now be able to be collected by other means than a blood test; for instance, by a collection of saliva samples that are gathered with a cotton swab, which is both less invasive and less expensive.

Under current law, New Jersey's DNA Act requires blood samples to be drawn from persons who have been convicted or found not guilty by reason of insanity of aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual contact, criminal sexual contact or attempting to commit one of these offenses. The Division of State Police is responsible for the identification, analysis and storage of the blood samples in a State databank.

Gov. Whitman also today signed these pieces of legislation:

S-67, sponsored by Senators Bucco (R-Morris) and Kosco (R-Bergen) and Assembly Members Merkt (R-Morris) and DeCroce (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic), prohibits driving while under the influence of inhalants or other substances containing toxic fumes or vapors. The penalties for driving under the influence of an inhalant would be the same as those for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

S-924, sponsored by Senators Cardinale (R-Bergen) and Inverso

(R-Mercer/Middlesex) and Assembly Members Moran  
(R-Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean) and Impreveduto (D-Bergen/Hudson) , provides  
for continuing education for marriage and family therapists. The bill  
requires continuing education as a condition of license renewal, to ensure  
that marriage and family therapists are knowledgeable about current issues  
and methods in their field.