

# 5:16-1

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**LAWS OF:** 1999                    **CHAPTER:** 299

**NJSA:** 5:16-1                    (Camp ground owner-rights)

**BILL NO:** A2099

**SPONSOR(S):** Garrett

**DATE INTRODUCED:** May 28, 1998

**COMMITTEE:**                    **ASSEMBLY:** Judiciary

**SENATE:** Judiciary

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** Yes

**DATE OF PASSAGE:**            **ASSEMBLY:** January 28, 1999

**SENATE:** July 1, 1999

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** December 23, 1999

**FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**FINAL TEXT OF BILL:** (Second Reprint)  
(Amendments during passage denoted by superscript numbers)

**SPONSORS STATEMENT:** (Begins on page 5 of original bill)                    [Yes](#)

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:**                    **ASSEMBLY:**                    [Yes](#)

**SENATE:**                    [Yes](#)

**FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENTS:**                    No

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE:**                    No

**VETO MESSAGE:**                    No

**GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:**                    [Yes](#)

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

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**REPORTS:**                    No

**HEARINGS:**                    No

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:**                    No

P.L. 1999, CHAPTER 299, *approved December 23, 1999*  
Assembly, No. 2099 (*Second Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning the <sup>1</sup>**[right]** rights<sup>1</sup> and obligations of  
2 campground facility owners and occupants and supplementing Title  
3 5 of the Revised Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Campground  
9 Facilities Act."

10

11 2. As used in this act:

12 a. "Last known address" means the address provided by the  
13 occupant in the latest rental agreement or the address provided by the  
14 occupant in a subsequent written notice of change of address.

15 b. "Occupant" means a person, the person's sublessee, successor or  
16 assignee entitled to the use of a campground facility or a portion  
17 thereof under a rental agreement to the exclusion of others.

18 c. "Owner" means the proprietor, operator, lessor, sublessor or  
19 owner of a campground facility, the owner's agent or any other person  
20 authorized by the owner to manage the facility or to receive rent from  
21 an occupant under a rental agreement.

22 d. "Personal property" means property, located at the campground  
23 facility, not affixed to the land and including but not limited to goods,  
24 merchandise, household items, trailers, boats, campers, tents and the  
25 contents thereof.

26 e. "Rental agreement" means any written agreement or lease that  
27 establishes or modifies the terms, conditions, rules or any other  
28 provisions concerning the use and occupancy of a campground facility  
29 or any portion thereof.

30 f. "Campground facility" means any real property designed and  
31 used for the purpose of renting or leasing individual portions thereof  
32 to occupants who are to have access for the purpose of camping and  
33 the recreation associated therein.

**EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and 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> Assembly AJU committee amendments adopted November 16, 1998.

<sup>2</sup> Senate SJU committee amendments adopted March 18, 1999.

1       3. <sup>1</sup> ~~【Except as specified in this section, the】~~ a. The<sup>1</sup> owner of a  
2 campground facility or the owner's heirs, successors or assignees shall  
3 have a lien upon all personal property located at a campground facility  
4 for rent, labor or other reasonable charges due as specified in the  
5 rental agreement, and for expenses necessary for its preservation or for  
6 expenses reasonably incurred in any sale executed under this act. The  
7 lien provided for in this section is superior to any other lien or security  
8 interest except those prior liens as to which the occupant has notified  
9 the owner in writing. The lien shall attach as of the date the personal  
10 property is brought to the campground facility. The owner may retain  
11 the personal property until such time as the lien is satisfied or the  
12 personal property is sold at auction.

13       <sup>1</sup> b. The owner of the campground facility shall post and maintain  
14 in a conspicuous place a written notice which states that the owner of  
15 the campground facility has a lien on all personal property located at  
16 the campground facility for rent, labor or other reasonable charges due  
17 as specified in the rental agreement, and for expenses necessary for its  
18 preservation or for expenses reasonably incurred in any sale executed  
19 pursuant to the provisions of this act.<sup>1</sup>

20

21       4. If charges under a rental agreement are more than 30 days  
22 overdue, the owner may enforce a lien as follows:

23       a. Notice shall be delivered to the occupant either in person or sent  
24 by certified mail to the last known address of the occupant.

25       b. The notice shall include:

26       (1) An itemized statement of the owner's claims showing the sum  
27 due at the time of the notice and the date when the sum became due;

28       (2) A brief and general description of the personal property subject  
29 to the lien. The description shall be reasonably adequate to permit  
30 the person notified to identify the properties, except that any  
31 container, including but not limited, to a trunk, valise, box or trailer  
32 which is locked, fastened, sealed or tied in any manner which deters  
33 immediate access to its contents, may be described without listing its  
34 contents;

35       (3) A notice of denial of access to the personal property, if this  
36 denial is permitted under the terms of the rental agreement, which  
37 provides the name, street address, and telephone number of the owner  
38 or the owner's designated agent whom the occupant may contact to  
39 respond to this notice;

40       (4) A demand for payment within a specified time, not less than 14  
41 days after delivery of notice; and,

42       (5) A conspicuous statement that unless the claim is paid within the  
43 time stated in the notice, the personal property will be advertised for  
44 sale. The notice shall specify the time and place of the sale.

45       c. Any notice made pursuant to this section shall be presumed  
46 delivered when it is deposited with the United States Postal Service

1 and properly addressed with postage prepaid.

2

3 5. a. After the expiration of the time given in the notice, an  
4 advertisement of the sale shall be published once a week for two  
5 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation where the  
6 campground facility is located. The advertisement shall include:

7 (1) A brief and general description of the personal property  
8 adequate to permit its identification as provided for in section 4 of this  
9 act;

10 (2) The address of the campground facility and the number, if any,  
11 of the space or campsite where the personal property is located and  
12 the name of the occupant; and

13 (3) The time, place and the manner of the sale.

14 The sale shall take place not sooner than 15 days after the final  
15 publication.

16 b. If there is no newspaper of general circulation where the  
17 campground facility is located, the advertisement shall be posted at  
18 least ten days before the date of sale, in not less than six conspicuous  
19 places in the neighborhood where the campground facility is located.

20

21 6. a. A sale of personal property shall conform to the terms of the  
22 notification.

23 b. A sale of personal property shall be public and shall be held at  
24 the campground facility or at the nearest suitable place to where the  
25 personal property is held or stored.

26 c. Before a sale of personal property, the occupant may, in order  
27 to redeem the personal property, pay the amount necessary to satisfy  
28 the lien and the reasonable expenses incurred by the owner including  
29 reasonably incurred attorney's fees, advertisement costs and costs of  
30 removal of personal property.

31 d. A purchase in good faith of the personal property sold to satisfy  
32 a lien as provided for in section 3 of this act makes the property free  
33 of any rights of any person against whom any lien is held despite non-  
34 compliance by the owner with the requirements of this act.

35 e. The owner may satisfy his lien from the proceeds of the sale, but  
36 shall deposit the balance, if any, in an interest-bearing account with  
37 notice given to the occupant of the amount and place of the deposit  
38 and of the occupant's right to secure the funds.

39

40 7. a. A campground facility owner may remove or cause to be  
41 removed from such campground facility any person residing in the  
42 campground facility or portion thereof in violation of the terms of the  
43 rental agreement by notifying such person that the campground  
44 facility no longer desires to entertain them and requesting that they  
45 immediately leave. <sup>2</sup>Such removal shall be construed as eviction.<sup>2</sup>

46 Any person who remains or attempts to remain after being so

1 requested to leave shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense.

2 b. (1) A campground facility owner may remove or cause to be  
3 removed by a law enforcement officer any person refusing to pay  
4 registration or visitor's fees or any person who willfully denies other  
5 persons their right to quiet enjoyment of the campground facility or  
6 any person who violates any local, county or State law.

7 (2) The right to remove or cause to be removed shall arise after the  
8 campground facility owner makes a reasonable attempt to verbally  
9 warn the person to cease and desist the breach of quiet enjoyment or  
10 violation of the local, county or State laws, or rules of the campground  
11 facility or contained within the rental agreement signed by the person  
12 or person's agent.

13 (3) Following eviction, said person may make a written request to  
14 the owner within 30 days for a refund of the unused portion of his  
15 prepaid campsite rental or visitor fee.

16 (4) Upon such request the owner shall refund such unused portion  
17 of the fees less any amount deducted for damages.

18 <sup>2</sup>(5) Upon eviction, the person shall be deemed to have abandoned  
19 his right to use of the facility and the owner may make the facility  
20 available to other persons.<sup>2</sup>

21 c. (1) A law enforcement officer, upon the request of a campsite  
22 facility owner, shall place under arrest and take into custody any  
23 person who violates this section in the presence of the officer.

24 (2) Upon arrest, the person arrested shall be deemed to have  
25 abandoned his right of use of the facility and the owner may then make  
26 such facility available to other persons.

27

28 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

29

30

31

32

33 Clarifies rights of owners of campground facilities.

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2099**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**208th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED MAY 28, 1998

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman E. SCOTT GARRETT**  
**District 24 (Sussex, Hunterdon and Morris)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Gibson**

**SYNOPSIS**

Clarifies rights of owners of campground facilities.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/10/1998)**

1 AN ACT concerning the right and obligations of campground facility  
2 owners and occupants and supplementing Title 5 of the Revised  
3 Statutes.

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

7  
8 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Campground  
9 Facilities Act."

10  
11 2. As used in this act:

12 a. "Last known address" means the address provided by the  
13 occupant in the latest rental agreement or the address provided by the  
14 occupant in a subsequent written notice of change of address.

15 b. "Occupant" means a person, the person's sublessee, successor or  
16 assigns entitled to the use of a campground facility or a portion thereof  
17 under a rental agreement to the exclusion of others.

18 c. "Owner" means the proprietor, operator, lessor, sublessor or  
19 owner of a campground facility, the owner's agent or any other person  
20 authorized by the owner to manage the facility or to receive rent from  
21 an occupant under a rental agreement.

22 d. "Personal property" means property, located at the campground  
23 facility, not affixed to the land and including but not limited to goods,  
24 merchandise, household items, trailers, boats, campers, tents and the  
25 contents thereof.

26 e. "Rental agreement" means any written agreement or lease that  
27 establishes or modifies the terms, conditions, rules or any other  
28 provisions concerning the use and occupancy of a campground facility  
29 or any portion thereof.

30 f. "Campground facility" means any real property designed and  
31 used for the purpose of renting or leasing individual portions thereof  
32 to occupants who are to have access for the purpose of camping and  
33 the recreation associated therein.

34  
35 3. Except as specified in this section, the owner of a campground  
36 facility or the owner's heirs, successors or assignees shall have a lien  
37 upon all personal property located at a campground facility for rent,  
38 labor or other reasonable charges due as specified in the rental  
39 agreement, and for expenses necessary for its preservation or for  
40 expenses reasonably incurred in any sale executed under this act. The  
41 lien provided for in this section is superior to any other lien or security  
42 interest except those prior liens as to which the occupant has notified  
43 the owner in writing. The lien shall attach as of the date the personal  
44 property is brought to the campground facility. The owner may retain  
45 the personal property until such time as the lien is satisfied or the  
46 personal property is sold at auction.

1 4. If charges under a rental agreement are more than 30 days  
2 overdue, the owner may enforce a lien as follows:

3 a. Notice shall be delivered to the occupant either in person or sent  
4 by certified mail to the last known address of the occupant.

5 b. The notice shall include:

6 (1) An itemized statement of the owner's claims showing the sum  
7 due at the time of the notice and the date when the sum became due;

8 (2) A brief and general description of the personal property subject  
9 to the lien. The description shall be reasonably adequate to permit  
10 the person notified to identify the properties, except that any  
11 container, including but not limited, to a trunk, valise, box or trailer  
12 which is locked, fastened, sealed or tied in any manner which deters  
13 immediate access to its contents, may be described without listing its  
14 contents;

15 (3) A notice of denial of access to the personal property, if this  
16 denial is permitted under the terms of the rental agreement, which  
17 provides the name, street address, and telephone number of the owner  
18 or the owner's designated agent whom the occupant may contact to  
19 respond to this notice;

20 (4) A demand for payment within a specified time, not less than 14  
21 days after delivery of notice; and,

22 (5) A conspicuous statement that unless the claim is paid within the  
23 time stated in the notice, the personal property will be advertised for  
24 sale. The notice shall specify the time and place of the sale.

25 c. Any notice made pursuant to this section shall be presumed  
26 delivered when it is deposited with the United States Postal Service  
27 and properly addressed with postage prepaid.

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29 5. a. After the expiration of the time given in the notice, an  
30 advertisement of the sale shall be published once a week for two  
31 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation where the  
32 campground facility is located. The advertisement shall include:

33 (1) A brief and general description of the personal property  
34 adequate to permit its identification as provided for in section 4 of this  
35 act;

36 (2) The address of the campground facility and the number, if any,  
37 of the space or campsite where the personal property is located and  
38 the name of the occupant; and

39 (3) The time, place and the manner of the sale.

40 The sale shall take place not sooner than 15 days after the final  
41 publication.

42 b. If there is no newspaper of general circulation where the  
43 campground facility is located, the advertisement shall be posted at  
44 least ten days before the date of sale, in not less than six conspicuous  
45 places in the neighborhood where the campground facility is located.

A2099 GARRETT

1       6. a. A sale of personal property shall conform to the terms of the  
2 notification.

3       b. A sale of personal property shall be public and shall be held at  
4 the campground facility or at the nearest suitable place to where the  
5 personal property is held or stored.

6       c. Before a sale of personal property, the occupant may, in order  
7 to redeem the personal property, pay the amount necessary to satisfy  
8 the lien and the reasonable expenses incurred by the owner including  
9 reasonably incurred attorney's fees, advertisement costs and costs of  
10 removal of personal property.

11       d. A purchase in good faith of the personal property sold to satisfy  
12 a lien as provided for in section 3 of this act makes the property free  
13 of any rights of any person against whom any lien is held despite non-  
14 compliance by the owner with the requirements of this act.

15       e. The owner may satisfy his lien from the proceeds of the sale, but  
16 shall deposit the balance, if any, in an interest-bearing account with  
17 notice given to the occupant of the amount and place of the deposit  
18 and of the occupant's right to secure the funds.

19

20       7. a. A campground facility owner may remove or cause to be  
21 removed from such campground facility any person residing in the  
22 campground facility or portion thereof in violation of the terms of the  
23 rental agreement by notifying such person that the campground  
24 facility no longer desires to entertain them and requesting that they  
25 immediately leave. Any person who remains or attempts to remain  
26 after being so requested to leave shall be guilty of a disorderly persons  
27 offense.

28       b. (1) A campground facility owner may remove or cause to be  
29 removed by a law enforcement officer any person refusing to pay  
30 registration or visitor's fees or any person who willfully denies other  
31 persons their right to quiet enjoyment of the campground facility or  
32 any person who violates any local, county or State law.

33       (2) The right to remove or cause to be removed shall arise after the  
34 campground facility owner makes a reasonable attempt to verbally  
35 warn the person to cease and desist the breach of quiet enjoyment or  
36 violation of the local, county or State laws, or rules of the campground  
37 facility or contained within the rental agreement signed by the person  
38 or person's agent.

39       (3) Following eviction, said person may make a written request to  
40 the owner within 30 days for a refund of the unused portion of his  
41 prepaid campsite rental or visitor fee.

42       (4) Upon such request the owner shall refund such unused portion  
43 of the fees less any amount deducted for damages.

44       c. (1) A law enforcement officer, upon the request of a campsite  
45 facility owner, shall place under arrest and take into custody any  
46 person who violates this section in the presence of the officer.

1 (2) Upon arrest, the person arrested shall be deemed to have  
2 abandoned his right of use of the facility and the owner may then make  
3 such facility available to other persons.

4  
5 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

6  
7  
8 STATEMENT

9  
10 This bill clarifys the rights of owners of campground facilities. It  
11 would grant the owner of a campground facility a lien upon the  
12 personal property, located at the facility, of a campground occupant  
13 for rent, labor or other reasonable charges due under the rental  
14 agreement, and for expenses incurred in the preservation of or sale of  
15 the personal property. The lien would attach at the time the property  
16 is brought to the facility, and would remain in effect until the  
17 underlying obligations are satisfied. Under the bill, the lien created  
18 would be superior to any other claim, unless the occupant has notified  
19 the owner of a previously existing claim.

20 The bill would permit the owner to enforce the lien as follows:  
21 When the lien is more than 30 days overdue, the owner shall provide  
22 the occupant with a detailed notification describing the claim, the  
23 property subject to the lien, a separate notice denying the occupant  
24 access to the property in some instances, a demand for payment, and  
25 a conspicuous statement that the personal property will be advertised  
26 for sale if the claim is not paid within a stated time. A public sale of  
27 the personal property may be executed not sooner than fifteen days  
28 following two consecutive weekly notices in a newspaper of general  
29 circulation in the area where the camp facility is located. Prior to the  
30 sale, the occupant may pay the necessary amount and redeem the  
31 property.

32 The bill would provide that a purchaser in good faith of the  
33 personal property sold to satisfy the lien shall take the property free of  
34 any rights of any person against whom any lien is held. In addition,  
35 the bill would require the owner, after satisfying his lien from the  
36 proceeds of the sale, to deposit the balance in an interest-bearing  
37 account, and provide the person with notice as to how he may secure  
38 the funds.

39 The bill would further provide that a camp facility owner may cause  
40 the removal of an occupant who remains at the facility in violation of  
41 the terms of the rental agreement. Any person who remains after  
42 being requested to leave shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense.  
43 In addition, a facility owner may cause the removal of a person who  
44 continues, after a verbal warning, to disturb the quiet enjoyment of  
45 other persons at the camp facility.

# ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 2099**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: NOVEMBER 16, 1998

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 2099.

This bill clarifies the rights of owners of campground facilities. It would grant the owner of a campground facility a lien upon the personal property, located at the facility, of a campground occupant for rent, labor or other reasonable charges due under the rental agreement, and for expenses incurred in the preservation of or sale of the personal property. The committee amended this section of the bill to require the owner of a campground facility to post and maintain in a conspicuous place a written notice advising occupants of the terms and conditions of the owner's lien. The lien would attach at the time the property is brought to the facility, and would remain in effect until the underlying obligations are satisfied. Under the bill, the lien created would be superior to any other claim, unless the occupant has notified the owner of a previously existing claim.

The bill would permit the owner to enforce the lien as follows: When the lien is more than 30 days overdue, the owner shall provide the occupant with a detailed notification describing the claim, the property subject to the lien, a separate notice denying the occupant access to the property in some instances, a demand for payment, and a conspicuous statement that the personal property will be advertised for sale if the claim is not paid within a stated time. A public sale of the personal property may be executed not sooner than fifteen days following two consecutive weekly notices in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the camp facility is located. Prior to the sale, the occupant may pay the necessary amount and redeem the property.

The bill would provide that a purchaser in good faith of the personal property sold to satisfy the lien shall take the property free of any rights of any person against whom any lien is held. In addition, the bill would require the owner, after satisfying his lien from the proceeds of the sale, to deposit the balance in an interest-bearing account, and provide the person with notice as to how he may secure the funds.

The bill would further provide that a camp facility owner may

cause the removal of an occupant who remains at the facility in violation of the terms of the rental agreement. Any person who remains after being requested to leave shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense. In addition, a facility owner may cause the removal of a person who continues, after a verbal warning, to disturb the quiet enjoyment of other persons at the camp facility.

The committee also made some amendments which were technical in nature.

# SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2099**

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: MARCH 18, 1999

The Senate Judiciary Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2099 (1R).

This bill would grant the owner of a campground facility a lien upon the personal property, located at the facility, of a campground occupant for rent, labor or other reasonable charges due under the rental agreement and for expenses incurred in the preservation of or sale of the personal property. The owner would be required to post and maintain in a conspicuous place a written notice advising occupants of the terms and conditions of the owner's lien. The lien would attach at the time the property is brought to the facility and would remain in effect until the underlying obligations are satisfied. Under the bill, the lien created would be superior to any other claim unless the occupant has notified the owner of a previously existing claim.

If a claim is more than 30 days overdue, the owner shall provide the occupant with a detailed notification describing the claim, the property subject to the lien, a separate notice denying the occupant access to the property, a demand for payment, and a conspicuous statement that the personal property will be advertised for sale if the claim is not paid within a stated time. A public sale of the personal property may be executed not sooner than fifteen days following two consecutive weekly notices in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the camp facility is located. Prior to the sale, the occupant may pay the necessary amount and redeem the property.

The bill would provide that a purchaser in good faith of the personal property sold to satisfy the lien shall take the property free of any rights of any person against whom any lien is held.

In addition, the bill would require the owner, after satisfying his lien from the proceeds of the sale, to deposit the balance in an interest-bearing account, and provide the person with notice as to how he may secure the funds.

In addition to the provisions concerning personal property, A-2099 also provides that a camp facility owner may cause the removal of an occupant who remains at the facility in violation of the terms of the rental agreement. Any person who remains after being requested to

leave shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense. In addition, a facility owner may cause the removal of a person who continues, after a verbal warning, to disturb the quiet enjoyment of other persons at the camp facility. The committee amended these provisions to clarify that removal by camp facility owner of a person for violation of a rental agreement would constitute an eviction and that the owner may make the facility available to other persons.

PO BOX 004  
TRENTON, NJ 08625

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

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

RELEASE: December 23, 1999

**Governor Signs Bill to Protect Homeowners,  
Bill Connected to Death Penalty, among other Legislation**

Governor Christie Whitman today signed legislation prohibiting the cancellation and non-renewal of homeowners' insurance because of claims or losses resulting from weather-related damage or a third party criminal act. The Governor also signed legislation allowing family members of the murder victim to attend the condemned person's execution.

**Protection for Homeowners**

"This piece of legislation is important in that it protects homeowners from factors that are outside of their control and no fault of their own," said Gov. Whitman. "When people have weather-related damage at home because of a severe storm, for instance, they should be able to count on the fact that an insurer does not have the right to cancel or not renew their policy."

This bill also includes claims or losses that result from a third party criminal act committed by a non-resident of the insured dwelling, and like weather-related damage, it is beyond the homeowner's control. It applies only to owner-occupied, one to four family dwellings.

Yet the bill outlines that insurers are able to offer coverage on different terms and conditions if the insured has failed to reduce the risk of future claims, such as not making repairs if they were needed.

Under previous law, insurers were able to use their own underwriting guidelines; they could cancel or not renew a homeowner's insurance policy based upon a weather-related or criminal act claim during the policy year.

The legislation, **SCS for S-950 and S-1099**, was sponsored by Senators Anthony R. Bucco (R-Morris), Dr. Gerald Cardinale (R-Bergen) and Raymond J. Lesniak (D-Union) and Assembly Members Neil M. Cohen (D-Union) and Joseph Suliga (D-Union).

**Recommendation to Death Penalty**

"I feel it's only right that family members of a murder victim be allowed to attend the condemned person's execution - if that is something they choose to do," said Gov. Whitman. "While this bill doesn't ease the pain and suffering of a murder victim's family, these people are hurting enough - and we should grant them this wish, especially after all they have been through."

Including a recommendation from the Report by the Governor's Study Commission on the Implementation of the Death Penalty, the bill amends the law concerning executions to allow members of the murder victim's family, as well as the condemned person's family, to attend the execution.

Specifically, it permits two adult members of the condemned person's immediate family to be present at the condemned person's request. The bill also allows four adult members of the victim's family to be present, but prohibits disclosure of their names. And it reduces the number of physicians who must be present from two to one and reduces the number of members of the press from eight to four.

Under the previous law, both the families of the accused and the victim were prevented from attending the execution. Another provision that allows six citizen witnesses from attending still remains in the legislation.

The legislation, **A-2439**, was sponsored by Assembly Members Guy F. Talarico (R-Bergen) and Rose M. Heck (R-Bergen) and Senators Norman M. Robertson (R-Essex/Passaic) and Robert W. Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean).

In addition, Gov. Whitman today signed these pieces of legislation:

**A-2099**, sponsored by Assemblyman E. Scott Garrett (R-Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris), clarifies the rights of campground facilities. The bill grants the owner of a private campground facility a lien upon the personal property (located at the facility) of a campground occupant for rent, labor or other reasonable charges due under the rental agreement. Personal property is defined as any property not affixed to the land, such as recreational vehicles, trailers, boats, tents and their contents. Also, in order to provide the campground owners with a more effective means to deal with rowdy or abusive campers, the bill says that an owner may have an occupant removed if the occupant is in violation of the terms of a rental agreement.

**A-194**, sponsored by Assembly Members George F. Geist (R-Camden/Gloucester) and Gerald J. Luongo (R-Camden/ Gloucester) and Senators John J. Matheussen (R-Camden/Gloucester) and Andrew R. Ciesla (R-Monmouth/Ocean), imposes an additional penalty in certain drug-related cases and provides for deposit of such penalties in the Drug Abuse Education Fund. The bill imposes a penalty of \$50 on persons who are admitted to supervisory treatment pursuant to the Pre-Trial Intervention Program or who receive a conditional discharge for drug-related offenses.

**A-2269**, sponsored by Assemblyman Bagger (R-Middlesex /Morris/ Somerset/Union) makes changes to the law concerning certification of municipal tax collectors.