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P.L. 1999, CHAPTER 306, *approved January 4, 2000*  
Senate, No. 539

1 **AN ACT** concerning penalties for unlawful use of body vests and  
2 amending P.L.1983, c.152.

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

6  
7 1. Section 1 of P.L.1983, c.152 (C.2C:39-13) is amended to read  
8 as follows:

9 1. Unlawful use of body vests. A person is guilty of a crime **[of**  
10 **the third degree]** if he uses or wears a body vest while engaged in the  
11 commission of, or an attempt to commit, or flight after committing or  
12 attempting to commit murder, manslaughter, robbery, sexual assault,  
13 burglary, kidnaping, criminal escape or assault under N.J.S. 2C:12-1b.  
14 Use or wearing a body vest while engaged in the commission of, or an  
15 attempt to commit, or flight after committing or attempting to commit  
16 a crime of the first degree is a crime of the second degree. Otherwise  
17 it is a crime of the third degree.

18 As used in this section, "body vest" means bullet-resistant body  
19 armor which is intended to provide ballistic and trauma protection.  
20 (cf: P.L.1983, c.152)

21  
22 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

23  
24

25 STATEMENT

26  
27 This bill increases the criminal penalties for unlawful use of a body  
28 vest, also known as body armor. Presently such unlawful use is a  
29 crime of the third degree if the person commits or attempts to commit  
30 certain enumerated crimes. This bill increases the offense to a crime  
31 of the second degree when the crime committed or attempted is a  
32 crime of the first degree. Otherwise the offense shall be a crime of the  
33 third degree.

34  
35

36 \_\_\_\_\_  
37  
38 Increases criminal penalties for unlawful use of body vest in certain  
39 circumstances.

**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.**

# SENATE, No. 539

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 23, 1998

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator WILLIAM L. GORMLEY**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Senator JAMES S. CAFIERO**

**District 1 (Cape May, Atlantic and Cumberland)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senator DiFrancesco, Assemblymen LeFevre and Blee**

**SYNOPSIS**

Increases criminal penalties for unlawful use of body vest in certain circumstances.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/14/1999)**

S539 GORMLEY, CAFIERO

2

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ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 539**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: NOVEMBER 16, 1998

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 539.

This bill increases the criminal penalties for unlawful use of a body vest, also known as body armor. Presently such unlawful use is a crime of the third degree if the person commits or attempts to commit certain enumerated crimes. The bill increases the offense to a crime of the second degree when the crime committed or attempted by the person using or wearing a body vest is a crime of the first degree. Otherwise the offense would remain a crime of the third degree.

This bill is identical to Assembly Bill No. 1693.

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**SENATE, No. 539**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: SEPTEMBER 24, 1998

The Senate Judiciary Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 539.

This bill increases the criminal penalties for unlawful use of a body vest, also known as body armor. Presently such unlawful use is a crime of the third degree if the person commits or attempts to commit certain enumerated crimes. The bill increases the offense to a crime of the second degree when the crime committed or attempted is a crime of the first degree. Otherwise the offense would remain a crime of the third degree.

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1693

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 208th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 19, 1998

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman KENNETH C. LEFEVRE**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**Assemblyman FRANCIS J. BLEE**

**District 2 (Atlantic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Increases criminal penalties for unlawful use of body vest in certain circumstances.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/24/1998)**



1 AN ACT concerning penalties for unlawful use of body vests and  
2 amending P.L.1983, c.152.

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13 burglary, kidnaping, criminal escape or assault under N.J.S.2C:12-1b.  
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ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

**ASSEMBLY, No. 1693**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: NOVEMBER 16, 1998

The Assembly Judiciary Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 1693.

This bill increases the criminal penalties for unlawful use of a body vest, also known as body armor. Presently such unlawful use is a crime of the third degree if the person commits or attempts to commit certain enumerated crimes. This bill increases the offense to a crime of the second degree when the crime committed or attempted by the person using or wearing a body vest is a crime of the first degree. Otherwise the offense shall be a crime of the third degree.

This bill is identical to Senate Bill No. 539.

PO BOX 004  
TRENTON, NJ 08625

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

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

RELEASE: January 4, 2000

## **Governor Signs Bill Protecting dogs and Cats, Among Other Legislation**

New Jersey is a dog's best friend - and a cat's too - thanks to the bill Governor Christie Whitman today signed prohibiting the sale of dog or cat fur and products made from it, and the sale of domestic dog or cat flesh for human consumption and its resulting products.

"Coming from a family of animal lovers, I can't imagine that we would even have needed a bill to protect our dogs and cats from such cruelty. When I became aware of the fact that there were dog and cat fur products on the market, it was something I wanted to stop here in New Jersey," said Gov. Whitman. "As I often say, I want to continue making our state the best place to live for our many faces - but one family - of New Jersey. My mission also applies to our beloved 'four-legged' friends."

According to Gov. Whitman, the bill was introduced following a television report on "Dateline" that covered a recent investigation by the Humane Society of the United States. The report showed that approximately two million dogs and cats are killed annually as part of an international trade of dog and cat fur products. It also found that there is an extensive international trade of dog and cat fur products and that the method of killing is exceedingly cruel.

Dogs and cats are defined as those animals that are generally recognized in the U.S. as household pets, excluding "wild" dogs and cats such as coyotes, foxes, lynxes or bobcats.

The bill, **S-1815**, was sponsored by Senators Edward T. O'Connor (D-Hudson) and William L. Gormley (R-Atlantic).

In addition, Gov. Whitman today signed the following legislation:

**ACS for A-2463 and A-2496**, sponsored by Assembly Members Louis D. Greenwald (D-Camden), Mary T. Previte (D-Camden), Guy F. Talarico (R-Bergen) and Rose Marie Heck (R-Bergen) and Senators Robert J. Martin (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic), John H. Adler (D-Camden) and Anthony R. Bucco (R-Morris), provides for the inclusion of students, who are "courtesy" bused because of hazardous route conditions, in the calculation of regular vehicle utilization for the purpose of state transportation aid.

**S-342**, sponsored by Senators Diane B. Allen (R-Burlington/Camden) and Louis F. Kosco (R-Bergen) and Assembly Members Carol J. Murphy (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Loretta Weinberg (D-Bergen), establishes an Intergenerational Child Care Incentive Pilot Program. Its goal is to expand the availability of necessary child care services by encouraging the establishment of innovative employer-

community partnerships; using volunteer networks, such as retirees; and promoting intergenerational child care programs in retirement communities around the state. Specifically, this bill directs the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services to create a three-year Intergenerational Child Care Incentive Pilot Program in the Division of Family Development.

**A-670**, sponsored by Assembly Members John C. Gibson (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Marion Crecco (R-Essex/Passaic), permits the application of certain tinting materials on motor vehicle windows and windshields for medical reasons. This bill was introduced at a constituent's request who suffers from a medical condition involving sensitivity to sun. Under previous law, all New Jersey drivers were prohibited from tinting their windows.

**S-501**, sponsored by Senator Andrew R. Ciesla (R-Monmouth/Ocean) and Assemblyman Louis D. Greenwald (D-Camden), permits certain motor vehicles to display rear license plate only. Two classes are exempt from displaying dual license plates under this bill including vehicles registered as historic and vehicles manufactured before 1945.

**S-539**, sponsored by Senators William L. Gormley (R-Atlantic) and James S. Cafiero (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Assemblymen Kenneth LeFevre (R-Atlantic) and Francis J. Blee (R-Atlantic), increases the criminal penalties associated with using a body vest, sometimes referred to as a "bullet proof vest", in certain circumstances.

This bill changes the offense to a second degree crime when the vest was worn during the commission of a first degree crime. In all other circumstances, the offense will continue to be graded as a third-degree crime.

**A-1525**, sponsored by Assembly Members Joseph R. Malone III (R-Burlington/ Monmouth/ Ocean) and Melvin Cottrell (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Senators Robert W. Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Martha W. Bark (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Camden), provides for civil and criminal penalties for fraud in the General Assistance program. The bill was introduced in order to deter individuals who obtain benefits and providers who receive payments from abusing the program.