

5:12-173.1

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST
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(Casino Reinvestment Authority)

NJSA: 5:12-173.1

LAWS OF: 1996 **CHAPTER:** 118

BILL NO: A1927

SPONSOR(S): Le Fevre and others

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ASSEMBLY: Social Issues

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[First Reprint]
ASSEMBLY, No. 1927

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MAY 6, 1996

**By Assemblymen LeFEVRE, BLEE, Cottrell, Gibson, Asselta
and Moran**

1 **AN ACT** concerning development projects of the Casino Reinvestment
2 Development Authority in Atlantic City, amending P.L.1984, c.218,
3 and amending and supplementing P.L.1993, c.159.

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

7
8 1. Section 1 of P.L.1993, c.159 (C.5:12-173.1) is amended to read
9 as follows:

10 1. The Legislature finds that the single most significant factor
11 contributing to the cost of constructing, maintaining, operating and
12 supporting highways, roads and infrastructure, in Atlantic City, and
13 particularly in the "corridor" region of the city, is the heavy volume of
14 motor vehicular traffic occasioned by the attraction of casino gambling
15 in Atlantic City. This traffic is encouraged by the provision of free
16 parking by casino operations, by the relative underdevelopment of
17 public transportation services, and by the shortage of hotel
18 accommodations in the city. While the Legislature has taken various
19 measures, most notably the "South Jersey Transportation Authority
20 Act," P.L.1991, c.252 (C.27:25A-1 et al.), to provide and improve
21 public transportation services in the South Jersey region as an
22 alternative to the use of motor vehicles, the heavy capital costs
23 associated with reconstruction of the corridor region's infrastructure
24 require a continuous source of public funding. The Legislature
25 declares, therefore, that it is in the public interest to require a standard
26 minimum charge for casino parking within Atlantic City, and to impose
27 fees on amounts received from those charges, with the proceeds of
28 those fees to be used by the Casino Reinvestment Development
29 Authority for projects which are related to improving the highways,
30 roads, infrastructure, traffic regulation and public safety of the city, or

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:

¹ Assembly ASI committee amendments adopted June 3, 1996.

1 which are otherwise necessary or useful to the economic development
2 and redevelopment of the city in this regard. It is also in the public
3 interest to establish a special temporary fund for the use of existing
4 moneys of the authority for the provision of financial assistance to
5 **[casinos and] casino [hotels]licensees** to construct, reconstruct or
6 rehabilitate hotel rooms in Atlantic City.

7 The Legislature declares that it is the public purpose of this
8 amendatory act, P.L. _____, c. _____ (C. _____) (now pending before
9 the Legislature as this bill), that financial assistance to casino licensees
10 to construct, reconstruct or rehabilitate hotel rooms in Atlantic City
11 shall be determined after excluding costs reasonably related to space
12 used for the conduct of casino gaming. It was, and continues to be,
13 the public purpose of P.L.1993, c.159 (C.5:12-173.1 et seq.) that
14 financial assistance may be provided to a project which includes,
15 incorporates, facilitates or supports space used for the conduct of
16 casino gaming in a casino hotel facility, but only for costs reasonably
17 related to hotel rooms and their appurtenant facilities in the project.
18 (cf: P.L.1993, c.159, s.1)

19

20 2. Section 8 of P.L.1993, c.159 (C.5:12-173.8) is amended to read
21 as follows:

22 8. a. From the moneys made available to the Casino Reinvestment
23 Development Authority pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1984, c.218
24 (C.5:12-144.1), the authority shall, in such manner as it may
25 reasonably determine, set aside \$100,000,000 for investment on hotel
26 development projects in Atlantic City undertaken by a casino licensee
27 under the "Casino Control Act," P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-1 et seq.),
28 operating an approved hotel on the effective date of this amendatory
29 and supplementary act, P.L.1993, c.159 (C.5:12-173.1 et al.), which
30 result in the construction, reconstruction or rehabilitation of at least
31 200 hotel rooms in the City of Atlantic City. The authority shall, by
32 regulation, adopt standards for determining the extent of construction,
33 reconstruction or rehabilitation of hotel rooms or appurtenant facilities
34 required in order to qualify for authority investment, which standards
35 shall require at least that the hotel rooms be operated as part of a
36 licensed casino facility or be first class hotel rooms located and
37 operated in a manner consistent with an authority approved project.
38 The authority shall require as a condition for authority investment that
39 the hotel rooms be subject to an agreement with the authority that
40 requires the rooms to be reserved, at certain times and under certain
41 conditions agreeable to the authority, for convention business in
42 connection with an authority approved project. A hotel development
43 project may qualify for authority investment notwithstanding that it
44 includes, incorporates, facilitates or supports an expansion of space
45 used for the conduct of casino gaming in a casino hotel facility
46 operated by a casino licensee. ¹Any casino licensee which undertook

1 a hotel development project that was approved by the authority prior
2 to the effective date of this amendatory act, P.L. _____, c. _____ (C. _____)
3 (now pending before the Legislature as this bill), for an investment out
4 of moneys set aside pursuant to this subsection a., but which
5 investment has not been received by the casino licensee as a result of
6 the inclusion in the project of space for use for the conduct of casino
7 gaming, shall be entitled pursuant to this subsection a. to receive the
8 investment previously approved by the authority.¹ The provisions of
9 section 30 of P.L.1984, c.218 (C.5:12-178) shall not apply to
10 investments made out of the moneys so set aside.

11 The authority shall determine the amount each casino licensee shall
12 be eligible to receive out of the moneys so set aside. The form,
13 amount and terms of the investment made by the authority shall be
14 determined by the authority, but the maximum amount of the
15 investment shall not exceed the lesser of the amount which the casino
16 licensee applying therefor is eligible to receive, or ~~an~~ the amount
17 equal to ~~35%~~ 27% of the costs reasonably related to constructing,
18 reconstructing or rehabilitating the hotel rooms or appurtenant
19 facilities in the project~~], whichever is less.~~ excluding costs reasonably
20 related to space used for the conduct of casino gaming.

21 For the purposes of determining each casino licensee's eligibility for
22 authority investments from the moneys so set aside, the authority may
23 by resolution permit the transfer of obligation to make payment under
24 section 3 of P.L.1984, c.218 (C.5:12-144.1) to any other casino
25 licensee which has received approval for investment in a project to
26 construct, reconstruct or rehabilitate hotel rooms.

27 In approving a hotel development project, the authority shall
28 establish a schedule for investments to be made by the authority as
29 progressive stages of construction, reconstruction or rehabilitation are
30 accomplished. ~~]~~ A schedule so established shall provide for the
31 completion of the project on or before December 31, 1996, unless the
32 authority shall prior to that date find, by resolution, that a time
33 extension for project completion is warranted by special circumstances
34 or unforeseen occurrences. ~~]~~ Any moneys remaining in the special
35 fund thereafter shall be available for investment in otherwise eligible
36 projects of the authority.

37 b. From the moneys made available to the Casino Reinvestment
38 Development Authority pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1984, c.218
39 (C.5:12-144.1), the authority shall, in such manner as it may
40 reasonably determine, set aside \$75,000,000 for investment on hotel
41 development projects in Atlantic City, which shall be in addition to the
42 moneys set aside pursuant to subsection a. of this section. Any
43 moneys set aside pursuant to that subsection a. which are not invested
44 by the authority as the result of the failure of a casino licensee to
45 comply with requirements, regulations, conditions or determinations
46 made under that subsection a. shall be available for authority

1 investment pursuant to this subsection b. Authority investments under
2 this subsection b. shall be subject to the requirements, regulations,
3 conditions and determinations of that subsection a., except as follows:

4 (1) The authority may provide an additional investment amount to
5 a casino licensee which has had a hotel development project approved
6 prior to the effective date of this amendatory act, P.L. _____, c. _____
7 (C. _____) (now pending before the Legislature as this bill), but
8 which the authority has approved for an amount out of the moneys set
9 aside pursuant to that subsection a. that is less than the maximum
10 amount of investment for the approved project because sufficient
11 investment funds were not available to fund all projects approved
12 under that subsection a. at the maximum amount of investment. The
13 additional investment may be made only as the result of an application
14 made to the authority on or before April 1, 1996. The additional
15 investment amount shall not be greater than the difference between
16 the maximum amount of investment for the approved project under
17 that subsection a. and the amount which the authority actually
18 approved for the project. The authority may provide an additional
19 investment amount pursuant to this paragraph (1) only for those
20 previously approved hotel development projects for which
21 construction, reconstruction or rehabilitation has actually and
22 substantially commenced on or before August 31, 1996.

23 (2) Thereafter, any casino licensee may be eligible to receive an
24 investment out of moneys set aside pursuant to this subsection b.;
25 provided, that the casino licensee shall apply for approval of a hotel
26 development project by the authority within 90 days following the
27 effective date of this amendatory act. The authority shall require as a
28 condition for authority investment under this paragraph that
29 construction, reconstruction or rehabilitation of the hotel development
30 project actually and substantially commence within 12 months after the
31 date upon which the authority and the casino licensee enter into a hotel
32 room credit agreement.

33 (cf: P.L.1993, c.159, s.8)

34
35 ¹3. Section 3 of P.L.1984, c.218 (C.5:12-144.1) is amended to
36 read as follows:

37 3. a. (1) Commencing with the first annual tax return of a licensee
38 for any calendar year beginning after December 31, 1983, there is
39 imposed an investment alternative tax on the gross revenues as defined
40 in section 24 of P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-24) of the licensee in the
41 amount of 2.5% of those gross revenues. The tax imposed with
42 respect to each calendar year shall be due and payable on the last day
43 of April next following the end of the calendar year. The State
44 Treasurer shall have a lien against the property constituting the casino
45 of a licensee for the amount of any tax not paid when due. No tax
46 shall be imposed, however, on the gross revenues received by a

1 licensee during the first 12 months of the operation of any casino that
2 commences operation after January 1, 1984, but prior to the effective
3 date of this act, P.L. _____, c. _____ (C. _____) (now pending before the
4 Legislature as this bill).

5 (2) A licensee shall pay to the State Treasurer on or before the
6 15th day of the first, fourth, seventh, and 10th months of each year as
7 partial payment of the investment alternative tax imposed pursuant to
8 paragraph (1) of this subsection an amount equal to 1.25% of the
9 estimated gross revenues for the three-month period immediately
10 preceding the first day of those months. The moneys received shall be
11 placed in an escrow account and shall be held until the licensee directs
12 that the moneys be transferred to the Casino Reinvestment
13 Development Authority for the purchase of bonds issued by or offered
14 through the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority or pursuant
15 to a contract for such a purchase, be made available to the licensee for
16 a direct investment approved by the authority, or be transferred to the
17 Casino Revenue Fund as partial payment of the investment alternative
18 tax imposed pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection. Any interest
19 derived from the moneys in the escrow account shall be paid or made
20 available to the Casino Revenue Fund. If a licensee fails to pay the
21 amount due or underpays by an unjustifiable amount, the Casino
22 Control Commission shall impose a fine of 5% of the amount due or
23 of the underpayment, as the case may be, for each month or portion
24 thereof the licensee is in default of payment, up to 25% of the amount
25 in default. Any fine imposed shall be paid to the Casino Reinvestment
26 Development Authority and shall be used for the purposes of this 1984
27 amendatory and supplementary act.

28 b. Each licensee shall be entitled to an investment tax credit against
29 the tax imposed by subsection a. of this section, provided the licensee
30 shall pay over the moneys required pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1993,
31 c.159 (C.5:12-173.5): (1) for the first 10 years of a licensee's tax
32 obligation, in an amount equal to twice the purchase price of bonds
33 issued by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority pursuant
34 to sections 14 and 15 of this 1984 amendatory and supplementary act,
35 purchased by the licensee, or twice the amount of the investments
36 authorized in lieu thereof, and (2) for the remainder of a licensee's tax
37 obligation, in an amount equal to twice the purchase price of bonds
38 issued by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority pursuant
39 to sections 14 and 15 of this 1984 amendatory and supplementary act,
40 purchased by the licensee, or twice the amount of the investments
41 authorized in lieu thereof, and twice the amount of investments made
42 by a licensee in other approved eligible investments made pursuant to
43 section 25 of this act. The Casino Reinvestment Development
44 Authority shall have the power to enter into a contract or contracts
45 with a licensee pursuant to which the Casino Reinvestment
46 Development Authority agrees to issue and sell bonds to the licensee,

1 and the licensee agrees to purchase the bonds issued by or offered
2 through the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority, in annual
3 purchase price amounts as will constitute a credit against at least 50%
4 of the tax to become due in any future year or years. The contract
5 may contain those terms and conditions relating to the terms of the
6 bonds and to the issuance and sale of the bonds to the licensee as the
7 Casino Reinvestment Development Authority shall deem necessary or
8 desirable. The contract shall not be deemed to be in violation of
9 section 104 of P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-104). After the first 10 years
10 of a licensee's investment alternative tax obligation, a licensee will
11 have the option of entering into a contract with the Casino
12 Reinvestment Development Authority to have its tax credit comprised
13 of direct investments in approved eligible projects. These direct
14 investments shall not comprise more than 50% of a licensee's eligible
15 tax credit in any one year.

16 The entering of a contract pursuant to this section shall be sufficient
17 to entitle a licensee to an investment tax credit for the appropriate tax
18 year.

19 c. A contract entered into between a licensee and the Casino
20 Reinvestment Development Authority may provide for a deferral of
21 payment for and delivery of bonds required to be purchased and for a
22 deferral from making approved eligible investments in any year, but no
23 deferral shall occur more than two years consecutively. A deferral of
24 payment for any bonds required to be purchased by a licensee and a
25 deferral from making approved eligible investments may be granted by
26 the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority only upon a
27 determination by the Casino Control Commission that purchase of
28 these bonds or making approved eligible investments would cause
29 extreme financial hardship to the licensee and a determination by the
30 Casino Reinvestment Development Authority that the deferral of the
31 payment would not violate any covenant or agreement or impair any
32 financial obligation of the Casino Reinvestment Development
33 Authority. The contract may establish a late payment charge to be
34 paid in the event of deferral or other late payment at a rate as shall be
35 agreed to by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority. If a
36 deferral of purchase or investment is granted, the licensee shall be
37 deemed to have made the purchase or investment at the time required
38 by the contract, except that if the purchase is not made at the time to
39 which the purchase or investment was deferred, then the licensee shall
40 be deemed not to have made the purchase or investment. The Casino
41 Control Commission shall adopt regulations establishing a uniform
42 definition of extreme financial hardship applicable to all these
43 contracts. If a licensee petitions the Casino Reinvestment
44 Development Authority for a deferral, the Casino Reinvestment
45 Development Authority shall give notice of that petition to the Casino
46 Control Commission and to the Division of Gaming Enforcement

1 within three days of the filing of the petition. The Casino Control
2 Commission shall render a decision within 60 days of notice as to
3 whether the licensee has established extreme financial hardship, after
4 consultation with the Division of Gaming Enforcement. The Casino
5 Reinvestment Development Authority shall render a decision as to the
6 availability of the deferral within 10 days of the receipt by it of the
7 decision of the Casino Control Commission and shall notify the
8 Division of Gaming Enforcement and the Casino Control Commission
9 of that decision. If a deferral is granted, the Casino Reinvestment
10 Development Authority may determine whether the purchases or
11 investments shall be made in a lump sum, made over a period of years,
12 or whether the period of obligation shall be extended an additional
13 period of time equivalent to the period of time deferred.

14 d. The license of any licensee which has defaulted in its obligation
15 to make any purchase of bonds or investment in any approved eligible
16 project under a contract entered into pursuant to subsection b. of this
17 section for a period of 90 days may be suspended by the Casino
18 Control Commission until that purchase is made or deferred in
19 accordance with subsection b. of this section, or a fine or other penalty
20 may be imposed upon the licensee by the commission. If the Casino
21 Control Commission elects not to suspend the license of a licensee
22 after the licensee has first defaulted in its obligation but instead
23 imposes some lesser penalty and the licensee continues to be in default
24 of its obligation after a period of 30 additional days and after any
25 additional 30-day period, the commission may impose another fine or
26 penalty upon the licensee, which may include suspension of that
27 licensee's license. The fine shall be 5% of the amount of the obligation
28 owed for each month or portion thereof a licensee is in default, up to
29 25% of that obligation; shall be paid to the Casino Reinvestment
30 Development Authority; and shall be used for the purposes of this
31 1984 amendatory and supplementary act.

32 e. A contract entered into by a licensee and the Casino
33 Reinvestment Development Authority pursuant to subsection b. of this
34 section may provide that after the first 10 years of a licensee's
35 investment alternative tax obligation imposed by subsection a. of this
36 section, the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority may
37 repurchase bonds previously sold to the licensee, which were issued
38 after the 10th year of a licensee's investment alternative tax obligation,
39 by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority, if the Casino
40 Reinvestment Development Authority determines that the repurchase
41 will not violate any agreement or covenant or impair any financial
42 obligation of the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority and
43 that the licensee will reinvest the proceeds of the resale in an eligible
44 project approved by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority.

45 f. (1) During the 30 years a licensee is obligated to pay an
46 investment alternative tax pursuant to subsection k. of this section, the

1 total of (a) the proceeds of all bonds purchased by a licensee from or
 2 through the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority and (b) all
 3 approved investments in eligible projects by a licensee shall be devoted
 4 to the financing of projects in the following areas and amounts:

5	6 Areas	7 Yrs. 1-3	8 Yrs. 4-5	9 Yrs. 6-10	10 Yrs. 11-15	11 Yrs. 16-20	12 Yrs. 21-25	13 Yrs. 26-30
14	a) Atlantic City	100%	90%	80%	50%	30%	20%	
15	b) South Jersey		8%	12%	28%	43%	45%	
16	c) North Jersey		2%	8%	22%	27%	35%	35%
17	d) Atlantic City through the Atlantic City Fund							65%,

18 except that, with respect to the obligations for calendar years 1994
 19 through 1998, the amount allocated for the financing of projects in
 20 North Jersey from each casino licensee's obligation shall be the amount
 21 allocated for calendar year 1993, and the difference between that
 22 amount and the amount to be allocated to North Jersey, on the basis
 23 of the above schedule, from each casino licensee's obligations for
 24 calendar years 1994 through 1998 shall be paid into or credited to the
 25 Atlantic City Fund established by section 44 of P.L.1995, c.18
 26 (C.5:12-161.1) and be devoted to the financing of projects in Atlantic
 27 City through that fund. For the purposes of this paragraph, "South
 28 Jersey" means the counties of Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape
 29 May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Mercer, Ocean, and Salem; and "North
 30 Jersey" means the remaining 12 counties of the State. For the purposes
 31 of this 1984 amendatory and supplementary act, bond "proceeds"
 32 means all funds received from the sale of bonds and any funds
 33 generated or derived therefrom.

34 In the financing of projects outside Atlantic City, the Casino
 35 Reinvestment Development Authority shall give priority to the
 36 revitalization of the urban areas of this State in the ways specified in
 37 section 12 of this 1984 amendatory and supplementary act. Those
 38 areas shall include, but not be limited to, all municipalities qualifying
 39 for aid pursuant to P.L.1978, c.14 (C.52:27D-178 et seq.).

40 Within nine months from the effective date of this 1984
 41 amendatory and supplementary act, the Casino Reinvestment
 42 Development Authority shall determine the allocation of projected
 43 available moneys to municipalities in South Jersey for the first seven
 44 years of their receipt of funds, giving priority to the revitalization of
 45 the urban areas of the region. Municipalities receiving such an
 46 allocation shall present to the Casino Reinvestment Development
 Authority for its approval comprehensive plans or projects for which
 the allocations shall be used. Any such comprehensive plan or project

1 may be submitted to the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority
2 for a determination of eligibility at any time prior to the year for which
3 the funds are allocated, and the Casino Reinvestment Development
4 Authority shall make a determination of eligibility of the plan or
5 project within a reasonable amount of time. If the Casino
6 Reinvestment Development Authority makes a positive determination
7 of eligibility for any comprehensive plan or project, or combination of
8 comprehensive plans or projects, for any municipality whose total cost
9 exceeds the amount allocated to that municipality for the first seven
10 years of the receipt of funds by South Jersey municipalities, the Casino
11 Reinvestment Development Authority shall make available sufficient
12 funds in subsequent years necessary to complete those plans or
13 projects, or to complete that portion of the plan or project originally
14 agreed to be funded through the Casino Reinvestment Development
15 Authority, from funds received by the Casino Reinvestment
16 Development Authority in the years following the seventh year of the
17 receipt of funds by South Jersey municipalities. If the comprehensive
18 plan or project is determined by the Casino Reinvestment Development
19 Authority not to be an eligible plan or project, the municipality may
20 submit any other comprehensive plan or project for a determination of
21 eligibility. If, however, the municipality fails to receive a positive
22 determination of eligibility for any comprehensive plan or project, or
23 combination of comprehensive plans or projects, sufficient to exhaust
24 the total allocation to that municipality for any year prior to April 30
25 of the following year for which the allocation was made, the allocation
26 to that municipality for that year shall cease, and the Casino
27 Reinvestment Development Authority may apply those excess funds to
28 any other comprehensive plan or project in any other municipality in
29 the region whose comprehensive plan or project has received a
30 positive determination of eligibility by the Casino Reinvestment
31 Development Authority.

32 Within 36 months from the effective date of this 1984 amendatory
33 and supplementary act, the Casino Reinvestment Development
34 Authority shall determine the allocation of projected available moneys
35 to municipalities in North Jersey for the first five years of their receipt
36 of funds, giving priority to the revitalization of the urban areas of the
37 region. Municipalities receiving such an allocation shall present to the
38 Casino Reinvestment Development Authority for its approval
39 comprehensive plans or projects for which the allocations shall be
40 used. Any such comprehensive plan or project may be submitted to
41 the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority for a determination
42 of eligibility at any time prior to the year for which the funds are
43 allocated, and the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority shall
44 make a determination of eligibility of the plan or project within a
45 reasonable amount of time. If the Casino Reinvestment Development
46 Authority makes a positive determination of eligibility for any

1 comprehensive plan or project, or combination of comprehensive plans
2 or projects, for any municipality whose total cost exceeds the amount
3 allocated to that municipality for the first five years of the receipt of
4 funds by North Jersey municipalities, the Casino Reinvestment
5 Development Authority shall make available sufficient funds in
6 subsequent years necessary to complete those plans or projects, or to
7 complete that portion of the plan or project originally agreed to be
8 funded through the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority, from
9 funds received by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority in
10 the years following the fifth year of the receipt of funds by North
11 Jersey municipalities. If the comprehensive plan or project is
12 determined by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority not to
13 be an eligible plan or project, the municipality may submit any other
14 comprehensive plan or project for a determination of eligibility. If,
15 however, the municipality fails to receive a positive determination of
16 eligibility for any comprehensive plan or project, or combination of
17 comprehensive plans or projects, sufficient to exhaust the total
18 allocation to that municipality for any year prior to April 30 of the
19 following year for which the allocation was made, the allocation to
20 that municipality for that year shall cease, and the Casino
21 Reinvestment Development Authority may apply those excess funds to
22 any other comprehensive plan or project in any other municipality in
23 the region whose comprehensive plan or project has received a
24 positive determination of eligibility by the Casino Reinvestment
25 Development Authority.

26 (2) Commencing with the first year in which a licensee incurs a tax
27 obligation pursuant to this section, and for the period of two years
28 thereafter, 100% of the proceeds of all bonds purchased by a licensee
29 from the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority which are
30 devoted to the financing of projects in the city of Atlantic City
31 pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be used exclusively
32 to finance the rehabilitation, development, or construction of, or to
33 provide mortgage financing of, housing facilities in the city of Atlantic
34 City for persons or families of low through middle income, as defined
35 in this subsection. For the purposes of this subsection, the
36 "rehabilitation, development, or construction of housing facilities"
37 shall include expenses attributable to site preparation, infrastructure
38 needs and housing-related community facilities and services, including
39 supporting commercial development. Commencing with the fourth
40 year in which a licensee incurs a tax obligation pursuant to this
41 subsection, 50% of the proceeds of all bonds purchased by a licensee
42 from the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority which are
43 devoted to the financing of projects in the city of Atlantic City shall be
44 used exclusively to finance the rehabilitation, development, or
45 construction of housing facilities in the city of Atlantic City for
46 persons or families of low through middle income. Commencing with

1 the 11th year in which a licensee incurs a tax obligation pursuant to
2 this section, 50% of the annual aggregate of the proceeds of bonds
3 purchased by a licensee from the Casino Reinvestment Development
4 Authority which are devoted to the financing of projects in the city of
5 Atlantic City and investments in approved eligible projects commenced
6 by a licensee in the city of Atlantic City shall be used exclusively to
7 finance the rehabilitation, development, or construction of, or to
8 provide mortgage financing of, housing facilities in the city of Atlantic
9 City for persons or families of low through middle income.

10 (3) The Legislature finds that it is necessary to provide for a
11 balanced community and develop a comprehensive housing program.
12 The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority shall determine the
13 need for housing in the city of Atlantic City, in consultation with the
14 city of Atlantic City and specifically its zoning and planning boards.
15 This shall include determining the types and classes of housing to be
16 constructed and the number of units of each type and class of housing
17 to be built. The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority shall
18 give priority to the housing needs of the persons and their families
19 residing in the city of Atlantic City in 1983 and continuing such
20 residency through the effective date of this 1984 amendatory and
21 supplementary act. The actual percentage of the proceeds of bonds
22 and investments in approved eligible projects commenced by a licensee
23 in the city of Atlantic City, which shall be used exclusively to finance
24 the rehabilitation, development, or construction of, or to provide
25 mortgage financing of, housing facilities in the city of Atlantic City for
26 persons or families of low through middle income, shall be based upon
27 the authority's determination of the need for housing in the city of
28 Atlantic City conducted pursuant to this subsection. Once the housing
29 needs of the persons residing in the city of Atlantic City in 1983 and
30 continuing such residency through the effective date of this 1984
31 amendatory and supplementary act have been met, as determined by
32 the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority pursuant to this
33 subsection, any required percentages for such housing in the city of
34 Atlantic City may, in its sole discretion, be waived by the Casino
35 Reinvestment Development Authority. To aid the Casino
36 Reinvestment Development Authority in making these determinations,
37 the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority shall review the
38 proposal for a housing redevelopment program and strategy for the
39 city of Atlantic City approved and adopted by the Casino Control
40 Commission and shall give priority to same and any other plan or
41 project which is consistent with the standards of this subsection and is
42 acceptable to the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority,
43 pursuant to section 25 of this 1984 amendatory and supplementary act.
44 The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority may determine
45 whether the funds used to finance housing facilities in the city of
46 Atlantic City for persons or families of low, moderate, median range,

1 and middle income are derived from the proceeds of bonds purchased
2 by a licensee from the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority to
3 be devoted to the financing of projects in the city of Atlantic City,
4 investments in approved eligible projects commenced by a licensee in
5 the city of Atlantic City, or a combination of both. Any investment
6 made by a licensee in excess of 100% of its eligible investment tax
7 credit during the first three years and in excess of 50% thereafter in
8 either the purchase of bonds or direct investments in approved eligible
9 projects for low, moderate, median range, and middle income family
10 housing facilities in the city of Atlantic City may be carried forward
11 and credited against the licensee's obligation to make a 100%
12 investment during the first three years and 50% thereafter in low,
13 moderate, median range, and middle income family housing in any
14 future year, with the approval of the Casino Reinvestment
15 Development Authority. For the purposes of this act, "low income
16 families" means families whose income does not exceed 50% of the
17 median income of the area, with adjustments for smaller and larger
18 families. "Moderate income families" means families whose income
19 does not exceed 80% and is not less than 50% of the median income
20 for the area, with adjustments for smaller and larger families. "Median
21 range income families" means families whose income does not exceed
22 120% and is not less than 80% of the median income for the area, with
23 adjustments for smaller and larger families. "Middle income families"
24 means families whose income does not exceed 150% and not less than
25 120% of the median income for the area, with adjustments for smaller
26 and larger families. "Median income" means an income defined as
27 median within the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area for Atlantic
28 City by the United States Department of Housing and Urban
29 Development.

30 In order to achieve a balanced community, the authority shall
31 ensure that the development of housing for families of low and
32 moderate income shall proceed at the same time as housing for families
33 of median range and middle income, until such time as there is no
34 longer a need for such facilities in the city of Atlantic City, as
35 determined by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority.

36 (4) Notwithstanding any other law or section to the contrary,
37 particularly this subsection regarding the waiver of the required
38 percentages for housing in the city of Atlantic City, subsection i. of
39 section 14, and sections 26, 27, 28, 29, and 31 of this 1984
40 amendatory and supplementary act, nothing shall be implemented or
41 waived by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority which
42 would reduce, impair, or prevent the fulfillment of the priorities
43 established and contained in this subsection of this 1984 amendatory
44 and supplementary act.

45 g. If a person is a licensee with regard to more than one approved
46 hotel pursuant to section 82 of P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-82), the

1 person shall separately account for the gross revenues, the investment
2 alternative tax obligations, and the investments for a tax credit against
3 the investment alternative tax for each approved hotel, and the tax
4 obligations of the licensee under this section shall be determined
5 separately for each approved hotel. The licensee may apportion
6 investments between its approved hotels; provided that no amount of
7 investment shall be credited more than once. If a licensee receives the
8 prior approval of the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority, the
9 licensee may make eligible investments in excess of the investments
10 necessary to receive a tax credit against the investment alternative tax
11 for a given calendar year, and the licensee may carry forward this
12 excess investment and have it credited to its next investment
13 alternative tax obligation. If the Casino Reinvestment Development
14 Authority approves of such excess investment and approves the carry
15 forward of this excess investment, and a licensee elects to purchase
16 bonds of the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority or makes
17 direct investments in approved eligible projects in excess of the
18 investments necessary to receive a tax credit against the investment
19 alternative tax for its current obligation, the licensee shall be entitled
20 to a reduction of the amount of investments necessary in future years,
21 which amount shall be determined annually by the Casino
22 Reinvestment Development Authority, taking into account a current
23 market discount rate from the date of the purchase or investment to
24 the date the purchase or investment would have been required to be
25 made.

26 h. Each casino licensee shall prepare and file, in a form prescribed
27 by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority, an annual return
28 reporting that financial information as shall be deemed necessary by
29 the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority to carry out the
30 provisions of this act. This return shall be filed with the Casino
31 Reinvestment Development Authority and the Casino Control
32 Commission on or before April 30 following the calendar year on
33 which the return is based. The Casino Control Commission shall
34 verify to the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority the
35 information contained in the report, to the fullest extent possible.
36 Nothing in this subsection shall be deemed to affect the due dates for
37 making any investment or paying any tax under this section.

38 i. Any purchase by a licensee of bonds issued by or offered
39 through the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority pursuant to
40 sections 14 and 15 of this act and subsection b. of this section and all
41 approved eligible investments made by a licensee pursuant to section
42 25 of this act and subsection b. of this section are to be considered
43 investments and not taxes owed or grants to the State or any political
44 subdivision thereof. As such, a licensee shall have the possibility of
45 the return of principal and a return on the capital invested as with
46 other investments. Investors in the bonds issued by or offered through

1 the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority shall be provided
2 with an opinion from a recognized financial rating agency or a financial
3 advisory firm with national standing that each loan of bond proceeds
4 by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority has the minimum
5 characteristics of an investment, in that a degree of assurance exists
6 that interest and principal payments can be made and other terms of
7 the proposed investment be maintained over the period of the
8 investment, and that the loan of the bond proceeds would qualify for
9 a bond rating of "C" or better. If an opinion cannot be obtained from
10 a recognized financial rating agency or a financial advisory firm with
11 national standing, an opinion shall be obtained from an expert financial
12 analyst with national standing, selected and hired by the Casino
13 Reinvestment Development Authority. In order to achieve a balanced
14 portfolio, assure the viability of the authority and the projects,
15 facilities and programs undertaken pursuant to this 1984 amendatory
16 and supplementary act, no more than 25% of the total investments
17 made by or through the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority
18 with the proceeds of bonds generated in each year shall be investments
19 which would qualify for a bond rating of "C," unless all holders of
20 obligations in each year agree to waive the 25% limit for that year.
21 Nothing herein shall be interpreted as limiting the Casino Reinvestment
22 Development Authority from taking any steps it deems appropriate to
23 protect the characteristics of its investment in projects or any other
24 investments from not being real investments with a prospect for the
25 return of principal and a return on the capital invested. Anything
26 contained in this section shall not be considered a guarantee by the
27 State or any political subdivision thereof of any return of principal or
28 interest, but any purchase by a licensee of bonds or approved eligible
29 investments made by a licensee pursuant to this act shall be at the risk
30 of the licensee. A licensee or the licensees purchasing an issue of
31 bonds issued by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority in
32 any given year may arrange, at their option, for those bonds or the
33 investments, made by or through the Casino Reinvestment
34 Development Authority with the proceeds of those bonds, to be
35 insured. The cost of any such insurance purchased by a licensee or
36 licensees shall be paid by the licensee or licensees desiring such
37 insurance.

38 j. The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority shall
39 promulgate rules and regulations deemed necessary to carry out the
40 purposes of this section.

41 k. The obligation of a licensee to pay an investment alternative tax
42 pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall end for each licensed
43 facility operated by the licensee 30 years after any investment
44 alternative tax obligation is first incurred in connection with each
45 licensed facility operated by the licensee, unless extended in
46 connection with a deferral granted by the Casino Reinvestment

1 Development Authority pursuant to subsection c. of this section.¹
2 (cf: P.L.1995, c.18, s.46)

3
4 **'[3.] 4.'** Section 5 of P.L.1984, c.218 (C.5:12-153) is amended
5 to read as follows:

6 5. a. There is established in, but not of, the Department of the
7 Treasury a Casino Reinvestment Development Authority to consist of
8 the following members:

9 (1) Six members appointed by the Governor with the advice and
10 consent of the Senate for terms of four years, except that of the initial
11 members to be appointed pursuant to this 1991 amendatory act,
12 P.L.1991, c.219, one shall be appointed for a term of two years and
13 one for a term of four years;

14 (2) One member appointed by the Governor upon the
15 recommendation of the President of the Senate for a term of four
16 years, except that the initial member to be appointed shall be appointed
17 for a term of three years;

18 (3) One member appointed by the Governor upon the
19 recommendation of the Speaker of the General Assembly for a term of
20 four years, except that the initial member to be appointed shall be
21 appointed for a term of one year;

22 (4) A member of the Casino Control Commission, who shall be
23 appointed by the Governor and shall be a voting member of the
24 authority;

25 (5) The mayor of Atlantic City, ex officio and voting;

26 (6) The Attorney General and the State Treasurer, ex officio and
27 voting; **[and]**

28 (7) Two casino industry representatives, both of whom shall be
29 voting members, appointed by the Governor for terms of two years,
30 except that of the initial appointees, one shall serve for a term of one
31 year and one for a term of two years. No person shall be reappointed
32 to succeed himself as a casino industry representative member, and no
33 person appointed shall be an employee, officer or agent of the same
34 casino licensee as the person whom he succeeds as a casino industry
35 representative member; and

36 (8) One member appointed by the Governor to serve ex officio as
37 a voting member, who shall be either the Commissioner of the
38 Department of Commerce and Economic Development or the
39 Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, or the
40 Governor may appoint, in lieu thereof, an additional member of the
41 Casino Control Commission as a voting member.

42 No more than four of the voting members appointed by the
43 Governor pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be of the
44 same political party.

45 In the appointment of members of the authority, consideration
46 should be given to achieving a membership of high quality and varied

1 experience, with special emphasis on the fields of banking, finance,
2 investment, and housing and urban development.

3 b. Each member appointed by the Governor shall hold office for
4 the term of his appointment and until his successor shall have been
5 appointed and qualified. A member shall be eligible for reappointment.
6 Any vacancy in the membership occurring other than by expiration of
7 term shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment but
8 for the unexpired term only.

9 c. The member or members of the Casino Control Commission
10 appointed by the Governor shall serve as a member or members of the
11 Casino Reinvestment Development Authority at the pleasure of the
12 Governor, subject to the limitations in subsections c., f., and h. of
13 section 52 of P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-52). ~~【The】~~Such a member may
14 be removed or suspended from office as a member of the Casino
15 Reinvestment Development Authority as provided in section 6 of this
16 act. Any removal or suspension from office of ~~【the】~~a member of the
17 Casino Control Commission from the Casino Reinvestment
18 Development Authority shall not affect his office held as a member of
19 the Casino Control Commission. Removal from office as a member of
20 the Casino Control Commission may only be done in accordance with
21 subsection g. of section 52 of P.L.1977, c.110 (C.5:12-52).
22 (cf: P.L.1993, c.159, s.10)

23

24 ~~【4.】~~ 5.¹ Section 7 of P.L.1984, c.218 (C.5:12-155) is amended
25 to read as follows:

26 7. The Governor shall designate from among the appointed and
27 voting public members, a chairman and a vice chairman of the Casino
28 Reinvestment Development Authority, who shall serve in those
29 capacities at the pleasure of the Governor. The powers of the Casino
30 Reinvestment Development Authority shall be vested in the members
31 thereof in office from time to time and ~~【seven】~~eight voting members
32 of the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority shall constitute a
33 quorum at any meeting thereof. Action may be taken by motions and
34 resolutions adopted by the Casino Reinvestment Development
35 Authority at any meeting thereof by the affirmative vote of at least
36 ~~【seven】~~eight members of the Casino Reinvestment Development
37 Authority. No vacancy in the membership of the Casino Reinvestment
38 Development Authority shall impair the right of a quorum of the
39 members to exercise all the powers and perform all the duties of the
40 Casino Reinvestment Development Authority.
41 (cf: P.L.1995, c.18, s.42)

42

43 ~~【5.】~~ 6.¹ Section 9 of P.L.1984, c.218(C.5:12-157) is amended to
44 read as follows:

45 9. The Attorney General and the State Treasurer, and, where
46 appropriate, the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and

1 Economic Development or the Commissioner of the Department of
2 Community Affairs, may designate an officer or employee of [his
3 department] their respective departments and the Casino Control
4 Commission member or members on the Casino Reinvestment
5 Development Authority may designate another commissioner or
6 employee of the commission to represent them at meetings of the
7 Casino Reinvestment Development Authority, and each designee may
8 lawfully vote and otherwise act on behalf of the member for whom he
9 constitutes the designee. Any designation shall be in writing delivered
10 to the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority and shall continue
11 in effect until revoked or amended by writing delivered to the Casino
12 Reinvestment Development Authority.

13 (cf: P.L.1991, c.219, s.4)

14
15 ¹[6.] 7. (New section) The State of New Jersey hereby
16 covenants with the purchasers, holders and owners, from time to time,
17 of any bonds secured by funds derived from fees imposed for the use
18 of casino parking spaces pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1993, c.159
19 (C.5:12-173.3) that it shall not repeal or reduce the fee so imposed
20 under that act, while bonds entitled to benefits from the fee so imposed
21 are outstanding, and shall not modify or amend the provisions of that
22 act so as to create any lien or charge on, or any pledge, assignment,
23 diversion, withholding payment or other use of or deduction from the
24 fee so imposed which is prior in time or superior in right to any
25 payments required to be made pursuant to any bond covenants entered
26 into with the purchasers, holders and owners of the bonds so secured.

27
28 ¹[7.] 8. This act shall take effect immediately.

29
30
31
32
33 _____
34 Concerns investments by Casino Reinvestment Development Authority
in development projects in Atlantic City.

1 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

2

3

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*S*ponsor's STATEMENT

5

6 It is the legislative intent of this bill that investments made by the
7 Casino Reinvestment Development Authority under P.L.1993, c.159
8 (C.5:12-173.1 et seq.) exclude costs reasonably related to space used
9 for the conduct of casino gaming. It is also the intent of this bill to
10 address the decision of the trial court in CRDA v. Coking, et al.
11 Docket No. ATL-L-2974-94 by clarifying that it was and continues to
12 be the public purpose of P.L.1993, c.159 (C.5:12-173.1 et seq.) and
13 of this bill that investment monies may be used for hotel development
14 projects which include, incorporate, facilitate or support an expansion
15 of casino space in a casino hotel facility, but only for costs reasonably
16 related to constructing, reconstructing or rehabilitating hotel rooms or
17 appurtenant facilities, and not for costs reasonably related to casino
18 space.

19 The bill also clarifies the regulatory power of the authority to
20 require that casinos licensees reserve hotel rooms in an approved hotel
21 development project for convention business pursuant to an agreement
22 with the authority.

23 The bill requires that the Casino Reinvestment Development
24 Authority set aside for investment on hotel development projects in
25 Atlantic City an additional \$75 million of moneys made available to the
26 authority. The bill sets forth the order of priority for use of those
27 investment moneys: first, for previously approved hotel development
28 projects which were approved for less than the maximum amount of
29 investment which they would have if sufficient funds were otherwise
30 available; and second, for additional hotel development projects for
31 casino licensees which apply after the effective date of the act. The
32 bill provides appropriate application deadlines for new and additional
33 hotel development projects, and deadlines by which construction,
34 reconstruction or rehabilitation of a hotel development project must
35 actually and substantially commence.

36 In addition, the bill provides for appointment of two additional
37 members to the authority, the Attorney General and a second member
38 appointed by the Governor who may be the Commissioner of
39 Commerce and Economic Development, the Commissioner of
40 Community Affairs or a second Casino Control Commission member.
41 It provides that persons appointed to the authority as casino industry
42 representatives cannot be reappointed to succeed themselves or to
43 represent the same casino licensee as their predecessors.

44 The bill includes a provision pledging not to repeal or reduce the
45 parking fee on casino parking spaces during the time that bonds
46 secured by the parking fee revenues are outstanding.

ASSEMBLY SENIOR ISSUES, TOURISM AND GAMING
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1927

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 3, 1996

The Assembly Senior Issues, Tourism and Gaming Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly, No. 1927.

This bill provides that investments made by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority under P.L.1993, c.159 (C.5:12-173.1et seq.) exclude costs reasonably related to space used for the conduct of casino gaming. The bill addresses the decision of the trial court in CRDA v. Coking, et al., Docket No. ATL-L-2974-94, by clarifying that it was and continues to be the public purpose of P.L.1993, c.159 that investment monies may be used for hotel development projects which include, incorporate, facilitate or support an expansion of casino space in a casino hotel facility, but only for the costs reasonably related to constructing, reconstructing or rehabilitating hotel rooms or appurtenant facilities, and not for costs reasonably related to casino space. The trial court found that a hotel development project incorporating substantial casino floor space was outside the scope of projects eligible for CRDA funding. This bill expressly provides that casino licensees are entitled to receive investments for hotel development projects previously approved by the authority but not received by the casino licensees as a result of the decision of the trial court.

The bill mandates that the authority, as a condition for authority investment, shall require that casino licensees reserve hotel rooms in an approved hotel development project for convention business pursuant to an agreement with the authority.

The bill requires that the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority set aside for investment in hotel development projects in Atlantic City an additional \$75 million of moneys made available to the authority. The bill sets forth the order of priority for use of those investment moneys: first, for previously approved hotel development projects which were approved for less than the maximum amount of investment which they would have if sufficient funds were otherwise available; and second, for additional hotel development projects for

casino licensees which apply after the effective date of the act. The bill provides application deadlines for new and additional hotel development projects and deadlines by which construction, reconstruction or rehabilitation of a hotel development project must actually and substantially commence.

In addition, the bill provides for the appointment of two additional members to the authority, the Attorney General and a second member appointed by the Governor who may be the Commissioner of Commerce and Economic Development, the Commissioner of Community Affairs or a second Casino Control Commission member. The bill states that persons appointed to the authority as casino industry representatives cannot be reappointed to succeed themselves or to represent the same casino licensee as their immediate predecessors. It is the understanding and intent of the committee that that provision does not affect the current terms of casino industry representatives.

The bill removes the exemption from the alternative investment tax for the first year of operation for casinos that commence operation after the effective date of the legislation. A casino licensee's alternative investment tax obligation continues to be 30 years.

The bill includes a provision pledging not to repeal or reduce the parking fee on casino parking spaces during the time in which bonds secured by the parking fee revenues are outstanding.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to provide that casino licensees are entitled to receive investments for hotel development projects previously approved by the authority but not received by the casino licensees as a result of the decision of the trial court in CRDA v. Coking, et al.

The committee also amended the bill to remove the exemption from the alternative investment tax for the first year of operation for casinos that commence operation after the effective date of the legislation. A casino licensee's alternative investment tax obligation continues to be for 30 years.

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

CN-001

TRENTON, NJ 08625

CONTACT: Becky Taylor
Jayne Rebovich
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RELEASE: Mon., Sept. 16, 1996

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed legislation that requires the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) to set aside \$75 million for investment in hotel development projects in Atlantic City to increase the city's viability as a resort area. The money is expected to fund approximately 1,000 new hotel rooms. The legislation specifies that casino licensees reserve hotel rooms in approved development projects for convention business.

The bill addresses questions raised following the court ruling in CRDA v. Coking which barred the CRDA from assisting in any project which contains or supports gaming facilities as well as hotel rooms. The bill clarifies that monies invested in the development of hotel rooms can be used only for the costs of constructing or rehabilitating hotel rooms or related space, and not for costs related to casino space.

Additionally, the bill increases the membership of the CRDA from 13 to 15 members, and removes the exemption from the alternative investment tax for the first year of operation for casinos that commence operation after the effective date of the legislation.

The bill provides for the appointment of two new members to the CRDA, including the Attorney General and a second member to be appointed by the Governor who may be the Commissioner of Commerce and Economic Development, the Commissioner of Community Affairs or a second Casino Control Commission member. Additionally, the bill specifies that members appointed here after to the CRDA as casino industry representatives cannot be reappointed to succeed themselves.

Finally, the bill stipulates that the state will not repeal or reduce the parking fee levied upon casino parking spaces while bonds secured by those fees are outstanding, so that the security for the bond will not be impaired. The fees help to secure bonds issued in connection with CRDA investments.

A-1927/S-1123 was sponsored by Assembly Members Kenneth LeFevre (R-Atlantic) and Frank Blee (R-Atlantic) and Senator William Gormley (R-Atlantic).

* * *

Gov. Whitman signed legislation today establishing the Arts Create Excellent Schools (ACES) pilot program. The program, based upon an innovative arts-infused student learning curriculum, will be implemented on a pilot basis by three pilot schools in New Jersey. Arts education is a one of the components of the Governor's Core Curriculum Standards, a comprehensive set of standards defining a thorough and efficient education, which were adopted by the State Board of Education earlier this year.

The bill provides that the Commissioner of Education will select three pilot schools in varying geographic and socioeconomic areas which will incorporate the arts curriculum in their learning process for a four year trial period. The Department of Education will consult with the State Council on the Arts and the Department of State in the administration of the program. After the fourth year of the program, the Commissioner will submit an evaluation of the ACES program to the Governor and the Legislature recommending the advisability of its continuation or expansion to other schools across the state.

A-1739/S-1071 was sponsored by Assembly Members John Rocco (R-Camden) and Leonard Lance (R-Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer) and Senator John Ewing (R-Morris/Somerset).

* * *

Gov. Whitman also signed **S-597/A-1753**, sponsored by Senate President Donald Di Francesco (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union), Senator William Schluter (R-Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer) and Assembly Member Leonard Lance (R-Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer), which allows legislators and their employees to inquire on behalf of and assist constituents with state agency matters if nothing of value is received in