

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE: July 30, 1998

Gov. Christie Whitman today acted on a number of pieces of legislation.

The Governor signed the following pieces of legislation:

A-405, sponsored by Assembly Members Jeffrey Moran (R-Atlantic/Ocean/Burlington) and Anthony Impreveduto (D-Bergen/Hudson), would give professional movers the option of using binding price estimates instead of the existing tariff system. Currently, movers are restricted to charging only the tariff price. The bill also limits a mover's right to withhold shipment in the event of a dispute with a customer who has been given a binding estimate. The bill is aimed at providing consumers with price breaks and protection, and will allow movers to lower prices when business is slow.

S-593, sponsored by Senators Winona Lipman (D-Essex/Union) and Ron Rice (D-Essex) and Assembly Members William Payne (D-Essex/Union) and Craig Stanley (D-Essex), provides a \$25,000 supplemental appropriation to the Department of Community Affairs for a grant to the Newark Boys Chorus School for transportation expenses to the Union of South Africa. The trip was completed in May. The funding will help defray costs of transportation for students and accompanying adults.

S-1159, sponsored by Senators C. Louis Bassano (R-Essex/Union) and Donald T. DiFrancesco (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union), provides for a five-year extension for the mandatory upgrade of non-residential heating oil underground storage tanks (USTs) with a capacity of over 2,000 gallons. The previous deadline for upgrading the USTs was December 22, 1998, which is the federal deadline for federally - regulated USTs. The extension provided for in the bill is conditioned upon the owner or operator signing a contract for the testing of the UST and submitting it to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Under the legislation, owners and operators have until August 31, 1999 to complete testing and submit the results to the DEP. The bill also extends the deadline to apply for financing pursuant to the Underground Storage Tank Financing Act from January 1, 1999 to August 31, 1999.

The Governor conditionally vetoed S-402, sponsored by Senator Robert Littell (R-Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris) and Assembly Members Guy Gregg and Scott Garrett (both R-Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris), which would expand the authority of fire police, who are members of volunteer companies, to control traffic and crowds at public events. The Governor recommended that the bill be modified to clarify that duly authorized police officers would have supervisory authority over fire police in crowd control situations. A copy of the conditional veto is attached.

The Governor vetoed S-427, sponsored by Senator Peter A. Inverso (R-Mercer/

Middlesex) and Assembly Member Guy R. Gregg (R- Sussex), which would have exempted automated car washes from sales and use tax. Automated car washes, as defined in the bill, accept either currency or coins without assistance from a human being. The Governor vetoed the bill citing that this case was not one which necessitated a special exemption from the sales tax. A copy of the Governor's veto message is attached.