

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

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Gov. Christie Whitman today signed the following pieces of legislation:

**A-1677**, sponsored by Assembly Members Connie Myers (R-Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer) and Leonard Lance (R-Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer), and Senator William E. Schluter (R-Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer), allows an individual seeking to become a candidate in a school board election to sign his or her own nominating petition. Under previous law, candidates were not permitted to sign their own nominating petitions. To become a candidate in a school board election, an individual must obtain the signatures of 10 duly qualified voters on a nominating petition. The bill makes the nomination petition process for school board candidates consistent with other elected positions in the state. All other state, county, district and other political subdivision candidates may sign their own nominating petitions.

**SJR-19**, sponsored by Senators James S. Cafiero (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Diane B. Allen (R-Burlington/Camden) and Assembly Members John C. Gibson (R-Cape May/Atlantic /Cumberland) and Nichoals Asselta (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland), designates the last Sunday in September in each year as Parents of Fallen Military Sons and Daughters Day. The designation of Parents of Fallen Military Sons and Daughters Day is a tribute to all parents whose sons and daughters gave their lives during service with the Armed Forces, and in acknowledgment of the contributions, commitment, and sacrifices made by those parents individually and through American Gold Star Mothers, Incorporated.

American Gold Star Mothers, Incorporated is a nondenominational, non-profit and nonpolitical organization that derives its name from the practice begun during World War 1 of the display of a gold star, instead of traditional mourning attire, by a mother whose son or daughter had made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

**S-618**, sponsored by Senators Peter A. Inverso (R-Mercer/Middlesex) and Gerald Cardinale (R-Bergen) and Assembly Member Raul "Rudy" Garcia (D-Hudson), provides for the continuity of certain contracts, securities and instrument affected by the introduction of the uniform European currency, the Euro. The bill clarifies potential uncertainty that may occur when the currency of certain European nations is replaced by the Euro. Many existing contracts, securities, and commercial instruments specifically call for payment in the form of old currency. This bill makes clear that the Euro is the commercial equivalent of the old currency.