

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

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

S-808, requires the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) to establish a public awareness campaign to inform the general public about the clinical significance of meningitis and its public health implications, including its causes and the most effective means of prevention and treatment. The bill also requires the DHSS to develop regulations to require that all four-year public and private institutions of higher education provide information about meningitis and meningitis vaccines to all prospective students prior to matriculation. Additionally, the schools must record student data in response to the meningitis information.

The bill also includes a \$50,000 appropriation to the DHSS to fund the public awareness project. The legislation was sponsored by Senator William E. Schluter (R-Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer) and Joseph F. Vitale (D-Middlesex), and Assembly Member Louis D. Greenwald (D-Camden).