

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

CONTACT: Jayne O'Connor
609-777-2600

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Gov. Christie Whitman today signed the following legislation:

S-987, sponsored by Senator Robert J. Martin (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic), and Assemblymen David W. Wolfe (R-Monmouth/Ocean) and Reed Gusciora (D-Mercer), creates an exemption to New Jersey's child labor laws by permitting minors, who have approval of a parent or guardian and who have reached the ninth grade level or higher, to participate or work in hands-on, supervised, science education programs. The student cannot participate more than 20 hours per week during the school year.

Under the current law, individuals must be 18 years of age or older to work in an industrial laboratory setting. This prevents many employers from inviting talented young students into their laboratories to conduct hands-on science projects. This bill will allow New Jersey's youth with a unique opportunity to participate in educational programs sponsored by high technology and science based corporations.

S-870, sponsored by Senator James S. Cafiero (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Assemblymen David C. Russo (R-Bergen/Passaic) and Charles Zisa (D-Bergen), would raise the page rate court transcribers can charge to litigants for transcripts of stenographic records and other court recordings. This bill is intended to bring New Jersey's court transcript fees in line with those paid to court transcribers by other states and the federal government.

Currently, court transcribers are paid \$1.50 for each page of the original and \$.50 for each page of a copy. This bill would raise the page rate to \$3.00 for each page of the original. The fee for each page of a copy would remain at \$.50.

The bill also provides that these rates would be increased every five years to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index. Lastly, the bill makes a technical amendment to the statute governing transcript fees to reflect that the court transcripts are to be prepared in the manner prescribed by the Rules of the Court of the State of New Jersey.