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Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Christie Whitman today signed the following piece of legislation:

S-657, sponsored by Senators Gerald Cardinale (R-Bergen) and Peter A. Inverso (R-Mercer/Middlesex) and Assembly Members Jeffrey W. Moran (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Ocean) and Anthony Impreveduto (D-Bergen/Hudson), provides for State certification of psychoanalysts by the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs and establishes a Certified Psychoanalysts Advisory Committee to advise the Director.

Under the law, an applicant must be at least 18 years old, of good moral character and hold a master's degree and a graduate certificate in psychoanalysis from a free-standing psychoanalytic institute to be eligible for state certification in this field. The applicant must also pass an examination approved by the Director in consultation with the Committee.

The bill prohibits any person from using the title of "State certified psychoanalyst" or the abbreviation "SCP" unless that person is certified as stated in the bill.

The current piece of legislation signed into law by Gov. Whitman was conditionally vetoed May 12th . In her conditional veto, the Governor had recommended that the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs approve the psychoanalytic institute from which an applicant has obtained a graduate certification. The Governor also clarified that the Director can waive the bill's educational requirement for those persons who have related experience in psychoanalysis and are practicing professionals in another mental health profession. And Gov. Whitman changed the make-up of the advisory committee to four psychoanalysts and two public members, from six psychoanalysts.