

PO BOX 004
TRENTON, NJ 08625

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Gene Herman
609-777-2600

RELEASE: June 28, 1999

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

S-1976, sponsored by Senator Robert E. Littell (R-Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris) and Assembly Members Joseph R. Malone, 3d (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Gerald J. Luongo (R-Camden/Gloucester), permits an expedited procedure for the adoption of regulations by the Commissioner of Education in regard to the Abbott districts. The bill permits the commissioner to adopt, immediately upon filing with the Office of Administrative Law, interim regulations to implement the order of the New Jersey Supreme Court in *Abbott v. Burke*. In view of the limited time available, it would not be practicable for the commissioner to adopt regulations for the 1999-2000 school year pursuant to the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act. The bill, therefore provides an expedited procedure for the commissioner to adopt regulations to implement the Supreme Court's order in *Abbott* for this limited time period.

A-2929, sponsored by Assembly Members Charlotte Vandervalk (R-Bergen) and David C. Russo (R-Bergen/Passaic) and Senator Jack Sinagra (R-Middlesex), requires tobacco product manufacturers who did not participate in the national tobacco settlement to pay into a reserve fund to guarantee a source of compensation to pay any future judgment or settlement. The purpose of the model statute is to prevent non-participating manufacturers from obtaining a significant market advantage since they are not subject to the business expense of the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). The MSA was reached on November 23 and entered into by New Jersey in *State of New Jersey v. R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, et al.*, Superior Court, Chancery Division, Middlesex County.