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Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

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

A-1284, sponsored by Assembly Members Alex DeCroce (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Joseph Charles, Jr. (D-Hudson), eliminates the current requirement that the tractor wheelbase of motor drawn vehicles, such as trailers and semi-trailers not exceed 20 feet between the center of the front axle and the center of the rear single axle or tandem axles. The requirement was applicable only to motor-drawn vehicles which were 53 feet in length. The 20-foot requirement was eliminated because the industry standard exceeds the 20-foot requirement. Approximately 80 percent of the vehicles being manufactured today exceed this requirement. The industry standard is approximately 24 feet in length. The 20-foot restriction was enacted to ensure that 53-foot motor vehicles would be able to effectively negotiate turns. The industry now advises that the distance between the axles is not an important factor in that regard. Rather, it is the distance between the kingpin of the motor-drawn vehicle and the centerline of the rear axle which is more determinative of a vehicle's ability to turn effectively. This distance is currently regulated by statute and is not altered by this bill.

A-1343, sponsored by Assembly Member Carol J. Murphy (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Senator Anthony R. Bucco (R-Morris), permits a county park commission to lease park lands or concessions for a period not to exceed ten years. Current law limits the duration of such leases to five years. The time of the leases will continue to be subject to the approval of the board of Chosen Freeholders of each county.