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*Office of the Governor*  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Governor Signs Bill Protecting dogs and Cats, Among Other Legislation**

New Jersey is a dog's best friend - and a cat's too - thanks to the bill Governor Christie Whitman today signed prohibiting the sale of dog or cat fur and products made from it, and the sale of domestic dog or cat flesh for human consumption and its resulting products.

"Coming from a family of animal lovers, I can't imagine that we would even have needed a bill to protect our dogs and cats from such cruelty. When I became aware of the fact that there were dog and cat fur products on the market, it was something I wanted to stop here in New Jersey," said Gov. Whitman. "As I often say, I want to continue making our state the best place to live for our many faces - but one family - of New Jersey. My mission also applies to our beloved 'four-legged' friends."

According to Gov. Whitman, the bill was introduced following a television report on "Dateline" that covered a recent investigation by the Humane Society of the United States. The report showed that approximately two million dogs and cats are killed annually as part of an international trade of dog and cat fur products. It also found that there is an extensive international trade of dog and cat fur products and that the method of killing is exceedingly cruel.

Dogs and cats are defined as those animals that are generally recognized in the U.S. as household pets, excluding "wild" dogs and cats such as coyotes, foxes, lynxes or bobcats.

The bill, **S-1815**, was sponsored by Senators Edward T. O'Connor (D-Hudson) and William L. Gormley (R-Atlantic).

In addition, Gov. Whitman today signed the following legislation:

**ACS for A-2463 and A-2496**, sponsored by Assembly Members Louis D. Greenwald (D-Camden), Mary T. Previte (D-Camden), Guy F. Talarico (R-Bergen) and Rose Marie Heck (R-Bergen) and Senators Robert J. Martin (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic), John H. Adler (D-Camden) and Anthony R. Bucco (R-Morris), provides for the inclusion of students, who are "courtesy" bused because of hazardous route conditions, in the calculation of regular vehicle utilization for the purpose of state transportation aid.

**S-342**, sponsored by Senators Diane B. Allen (R-Burlington/Camden) and Louis F. Kosco (R-Bergen) and Assembly Members Carol J. Murphy (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Loretta Weinberg (D-Bergen), establishes an Intergenerational Child Care Incentive Pilot Program. Its goal is to expand the availability of necessary child care services by encouraging the establishment of innovative employer-

community partnerships; using volunteer networks, such as retirees; and promoting intergenerational child care programs in retirement communities around the state. Specifically, this bill directs the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services to create a three-year Intergenerational Child Care Incentive Pilot Program in the Division of Family Development.

**A-670**, sponsored by Assembly Members John C. Gibson (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Marion Crecco (R-Essex/Passaic), permits the application of certain tinting materials on motor vehicle windows and windshields for medical reasons. This bill was introduced at a constituent's request who suffers from a medical condition involving sensitivity to sun. Under previous law, all New Jersey drivers were prohibited from tinting their windows.

**S-501**, sponsored by Senator Andrew R. Ciesla (R-Monmouth/Ocean) and Assemblyman Louis D. Greenwald (D-Camden), permits certain motor vehicles to display rear license plate only. Two classes are exempt from displaying dual license plates under this bill including vehicles registered as historic and vehicles manufactured before 1945.

**S-539**, sponsored by Senators William L. Gormley (R-Atlantic) and James S. Cafiero (R-Cape May/Atlantic/Cumberland) and Assemblymen Kenneth LeFevre (R-Atlantic) and Francis J. Blee (R-Atlantic), increases the criminal penalties associated with using a body vest, sometimes referred to as a "bullet proof vest", in certain circumstances.

This bill changes the offense to a second degree crime when the vest was worn during the commission of a first degree crime. In all other circumstances, the offense will continue to be graded as a third-degree crime.

**A-1525**, sponsored by Assembly Members Joseph R. Malone III (R-Burlington/ Monmouth/ Ocean) and Melvin Cottrell (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Senators Robert W. Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Martha W. Bark (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Camden), provides for civil and criminal penalties for fraud in the General Assistance program. The bill was introduced in order to deter individuals who obtain benefits and providers who receive payments from abusing the program.