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Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

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Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco has signed the following legislation:

S-621, sponsored by Senators John Matheussen (R-Camden/Gloucester), Norman Robertson (Essex/Passaic) and Anthony Bucco (R-Morris) and Assemblymembers John Kelly (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic) and Arline Friscia (D-Middlesex), allows parents, children, spouses and siblings of illegal drug users, as well as employers of illegal drug users, medical facilities, insurers and persons injured by the drug users' actions to sue drug dealers for civil damages.

S-647, sponsored by Senator Joseph Kyriillos (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and Assemblyman Joseph Azzolina (R-Middlesex/Monmouth) and Guy Gregg (R-Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris) permits the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control to issue a special auction permit to a nonprofit organization operating solely for civic, religious, education, charitable, fraternal, social or recreational purposes.

The permit will cost \$100 and would entitle the nonprofit organization to sell at auction alcoholic beverages donated to it by a licensee.

S-1382, sponsored by Senator Robert Martin (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Assemblymen Wilfredo Caraballo (D-Essex) and Kip Bateman (R-Morris/Somerset), revises rules concerning secured transactions by replacing Chapter 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) with revised Chapter 9, as well as, conforming amendments to Chapters 1,2,2A,4,5,7 and 8 of the UCC.

S-2123, sponsored by Senator Raymond Lesniak (D-Union) and Assemblymen Neil Cohen(D-Union) and Joseph Impreveduto (D-Bergen/Hudson), increases the term of office of the mayor and the members of council from two years to four years in municipalities. Provides for a transitional three-year term of office for the mayor and members of council elected at the 2002 general election.

This bill also alters the term of office of mayor and member so council from three years to four years in towns.

A-1325, sponsored by Senator William Schluter (R-Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer) and Assemblymembers Richard Bagger (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and the late Alan Augustine (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union), allows a municipality or county to install pedestrian crossing right-of-way signs at a marked or unmarked crosswalk or at an intersection.

A-1342, sponsored by late Assemblyman Alan Augustine (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union), provides that, as a fifth option, a Teachers' Pension and Annuity Fund (TPAF) or Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) member may choose a retirement allowance actuarially reduced to provide to a beneficiary an allowance equivalent to the full amount, three-quarters, one-half or one-quarter of that reduced allowance, but if the beneficiary dies before the retiree, the retiree's allowance will increase to a maximum amount.

A-2185, sponsored by Senator Louis Bassano (R-Essex/Union) and John Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Assemblymembers Leonard Lance (R-Warren/Hunterdon/Mercer) and Rose Maria Heck (R-Bergen), appropriates \$28,695,000 from the Developmental Disabilities' Waiting List Reduction and Human Services Facilities Construction Fund for the Department of Human Services. This money will be used for various projects within the divisions, including reducing the community services waiting list.

A-2209, sponsored by Senators Jack Sinagra (R-Middlesex) and Joseph Vitale (D-Middlesex) and Assemblymembers Carol Murphy (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Samuel Thompson (R-Middlesex/Monmouth), provides that the period for which eligibility for Medicaid and KidCare benefits is determined shall be the maximum permitted under federal law, currently 12 months.

A-2449, sponsored by Assemblymen Michael Arnone (R-Monmouth) and Joseph Azzolina (R-Middlesex/Monmouth), permits sewerage authority or a utilities authority to rename itself as a "water reclamation authority" to more accurately reflect its activities and purposes.

A-2523, sponsored by Senators William Gormley (R-Atlantic) and Edward O'Connor (D-Hudson) and Assemblymen James Holzapfel (R-Monmouth/Ocean) and Peter Barnes (D-Middlesex), increases the penalty for persons who produce and sell false motor vehicle identification cards from a crime of the fourth degree to a crime of the third degree which is punishable by imprisonment for three to five years, a fine of up to \$15,000, or both.

A-3622, sponsored by Senators Walter Kavanaugh (R-Morris/Somerset) and Raymond Lesniak (D-Union) and Assemblymen John Wisniewski (D-Middlesex) and Samuel Thompson (R-Middlesex/Monmouth), provides that for the year 2001, 1) the day on which members of the State, county or municipal committee of a political party will take office, and the day on which the terms of members previously elected to each such committee will terminate, will be the day immediately following the day of the primary election for the general election and 2) the holding of the annual meeting of the State, county and municipal committees of a political party will occur no earlier than the day immediately following the day of the primary election and no later than the 21st day following such election.