

Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

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**DIFRANCESCO SIGNS "AMUSEMENT RIDE SAFETY ACT"
Law Empowers Department of Community Affairs to Enforce Regulations**

Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco signed legislation today designed to improve the safety of carnival and amusement rides. A-2525/S2362, the "Carnival-Amusement Rides Safety Act," is designed to ensure a more safe and enjoyable amusement experience for New Jersey families.

The new law empowers the Department of Community Affairs to assess and enforce penalties against manufacturers of defective carnival-amusement rides or ride equipment. All manufacturers will be required to obtain a permit and submit detailed engineering plans for each amusement ride.

Additionally, all owners and operators of amusement rides located in New Jersey must immediately report any accidents resulting in serious injury or death and any malfunctions in the equipment that pose a threat of serious injury or death. The Department of Community Affairs will be authorized to investigate any serious accidents and subpoena witnesses and/or documents.

"This law is aimed at preventing the kind of tragedy that happened two years ago, when a mother and daughter died in Ocean City because of faulty brakes on a roller coaster. Our Department of Community Affairs will now have increased power to enforce penalties against manufacturers of defective carnival-amusement rides or ride equipment," said DiFrancesco.

If a manufacturer of amusement rides refuses to comply with DCA orders to make safety analyses or modifications, the state can prohibit the sale or construction of any ride made by that manufacturer. The liability requirement for operators of amusement rides was increased to \$1 million per occurrence, compared to \$100,000 per operator.

"Let's face it. Everyone who buckles up on a ride at an amusement park, carnival or fair, does so trusting that the ride operator has tested the equipment, that the ride has met manufacturing and safety standards and that the operator puts safety first. This law will make sure that safety is job number one," said the acting Governor.

A2525/S2362 was sponsored by Assemblymen George Geist (R-Camden/Gloucester) and Nick Asselta (R-Atlantic/Cape May/Cumberland) and Senators James Cafiero (R-Camden/Gloucester) and Martha Bark (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Camden). It was signed at Morey's Pier in Wildwood City, one of New Jersey's premiere ocean resorts.