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Office of the Governor
NEWS RELEASE

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RELEASE: January 29, 2001

Governor Whitman today signed the following legislation:

A-3038, sponsored by Assembly Members Malone (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Cottrell (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Senators Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and DiFrancesco (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union), permits religious or charitable organizations to lease property to other tax-exempt entities without losing their property tax exemption.

A-1849, sponsored by Assembly Members Merkt (R-Morris) and Augustine (R-Middlesex/Morris/Somerset/Union) and Senators Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean), Bucco (R-Morris) and Martin (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic), permits counties to increase the maximum daily compensation for members of election boards from \$100 to an amount not to exceed \$150.

S-254, sponsored by Senators Bennett (R-Monmouth) and Bucco (R-Morris) and Assembly Member Geist (R-Camden/Gloucester), amends the law concerning the reforestation of land owned or maintained by a State entity. Under current law, whenever a State entity plans to deforest an area at least one acre in size, the entity is required to adopt a plan to reforest the area. This bill reduces the size threshold to one-half acre, requiring the State to develop a reforestation plan whenever an entity plans to deforest an area one-half acre in size.

S-382, sponsored by Senator Sinagra (R-Middlesex) and Assembly Members Weingarten (R-Essex/Union) and Kelly (R-Bergen/Essex/Passaic) makes a supplemental appropriation of \$50,000 to the Department of Community Affairs for a grant to the National Association for Children with Autism, Inc. in Livingston.

A-2614, sponsored by Assembly Members Gregg (R-Sussex/Hunterdon/Morris) and Thompson (R-Middlesex/Monmouth), modifies the eligibility requirements for unemployment insurance and temporary disability insurance benefits.

A-895, sponsored by Assembly Members Bateman (R-Morris/Somerset) and Biondi (R-Morris/Somerset) and Senators Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Bark (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Camden), establishes a special license to promote agriculture.

S-462, sponsored by Senators Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Kosco (R-Bergen) and Assembly Members Malone (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean) and Cottrell (R-Burlington/Monmouth/Ocean), creates a drunk driver visitation program.

A-2006, sponsored by Assembly Member O'Toole (R-Essex/Union) requires a sentence imposed on inmates for assault on corrections and law enforcement employees to run consecutively to other sentences.

SCS for S-141 and S-1054, sponsored by Senators Bark (R-Atlantic/Burlington/ Camden), Singer (R-Burlington/Monmouth.Ocean), Matheussen (R-Camden/Gloucester) and Martin (R-Essex/Morris/Passaic) and Assembly Members Bodine (R-Atlantic/Burlington/ Camden) and Chatzidakis (R-Atlantic/Burlington/Camden), increases the number of tuition-free credits that a member of the National Guard may earn in undergraduate study and extends the credits to graduate study.