



Legislative Summary

New! S-11 - Senator Steve Sweeney (D-3), Senator Jim Whelan (D-2), Senator Jeff Van Drew (D-1)

The bill would require CRDA to designate through resolution the territory that would comprise the Atlantic City Tourism District (ACT District). Under the bill, CRDA would have broad jurisdiction within the newly created ACT District to impose land use regulations, implement initiatives that promote cleanliness, commercial development and safety, undertake redevelopment projects, and institute public safety improvements with a Joint Law Enforcement Task Force within the State Police which would also be created by this bill. Through the legislation, the Joint Law Enforcement Task Force would be authorized to hire current Atlantic City police officers and Atlantic City police officers who had been laid-off within 24 months of the bill's enactment, to provide for public safety within the ACT District. CRDA would be required to adopt a 10-year, full-scale national marketing program to encourage tourism and investment in Atlantic City. The bill now heads to the full Senate for consideration.

New! S-12 - James Whelan (D-2), Senator Raymond Lesniak (D-20), A-3517 Assemblyman John Burzichelli (D-3)

The bill would delineate casino regulation powers between the Division of Gaming Enforcement under the Attorney General, and the Casino Control Commission. Under the bill, the Division of Gaming Enforcement would be responsible for the regulatory, law enforcement and day-to-day oversight activities of gaming in New Jersey, and the Casino Control Commission would take on a judicial function, deciding on casino licensure applications, appeals of penalties or violations imposed by the Division of Gaming Enforcement, as well as making recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature to the Casino Control Act that the Commission and Division may deem necessary. The bill, which codifies recommendations made in a report to the Governor on gaming and wagering issues earlier this year, could generate between \$15 and \$25 million in annual savings. The bill now heads to the full Senate for consideration.

New! S-490 - Senator Raymond Lesniak (D-30)

The bill would authorize Atlantic City casinos to operate intrastate and international Internet wagering operations and provides that all games, including poker, that are played at a casino, may be offered through Internet wagering, and the bill would establish proper safeguards and regulation to ensure fairness in Internet wagering. Internet-based games would be available to New Jersey residents and international bettors, but would be prohibited for bettors across state lines, to conform to federal interstate Internet gambling prohibitions. Revenues associated with Internet wagering will help finance the operations of the Atlantic City Tourism District and benefit the horse racing industry, including supplementing purses. The bill now heads to the full Senate for consideration.



New! A-3195, A-3196 - Assemblyman Wayne P. DeAngelo (D-14),
Assemblywoman Linda R. Greenstein (D-14)

Two bills aiming to help small businesses weather the current economic climate, were recently given legislative approval. The measures received strong bi-partisan support. The first bill would cut red tape by requiring the Department of Treasury to create a uniform application for state business grants or loans. The second bill approved would help revitalize communities by offering tax credits for the redevelopment or improvement of distressed shopping centers. This bill directs the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA) to establish a program to certify taxpayers that make retail investments to redevelop partially or completely vacant shopping centers in New Jersey as eligible to receive a corporation business tax credit of up to \$15,000, but not exceeding the amount of 50% of corporation business tax owed by the taxpayer.

New! A-2489 - Assemblyman John Burzichelli (D-3), Assemblyman Annette Quijano (D-20), Assemblyman Wayne P. DeAngelo (D-14), Assemblywoman Celeste Riley (D-3)

The bill requires the Board of Public Utilities to issue every order in written form and post them on the Internet aiming to ease the bureaucracy hurting New Jersey businesses. "This is a sensible bill that will go along way toward making our state more business friendly," said Assemblyman Burzichelli (D-3), chair of the Assembly Regulatory Oversight and Gaming Committee that released the bill on Monday. "BPU orders can be among the most important yet complex directives for our businesses, and it's important to make sure they're clear so our businesses can spend more time creating jobs and less time cutting through red tape," said Assemblywoman Riley (D-3). The bill has recently reported out of the Regulatory Oversight and Gaming Committee with committee amendments for 2nd reading in Assembly.

Update! S-1866 - Senator James Whelan (D-2)

In an effort to stimulate growth in Atlantic City, Senator James Whelan submitted a bill that lowers the required room minimum on new hotel and casino construction. It has recently reported out of committee with committee amendments for a second reading in Assembly. The amendments provide that the commission must also require the holder of a license to establish a small-scale casino facility or a staged casino facility to establish and maintain as part of its premises at least one first class restaurant and at least one entertainment venue. The type and quality of the restaurant or entertainment venue would be subject to the approval of the commission.



From the Governor's Desk

Governor pushes toolkit reforms at South Jersey town hall meeting

WASHINGTON TWP. - Gov. Chris Christie criticized the Legislature for not taking action on his toolkit reform package, 36 days before the group will dismiss for the holiday season.

In a town hall meeting at the Washington Township Municipal Building Monday, the governor urged the hundreds of residents there to encourage their legislators to support the toolkit - a package of 33 reform bills focusing on education, municipalities and counties, and elections.

"We still haven't seen the kind of movement on the toolkit bill we need," Christie said.

In the News

Burlington County GOP taps Addiego for Senate seat; Delany for Assembly in 8th District

EVESHAM - The Burlington County Republican Committee unanimously chose state Sen.-elect Dawn Marie Addiego (R-Evesham) for a vacant 8th District senate seat and Lumberton Committeeman Pat Delany for the Assembly seat Addiego vacates as she moves to the senate.

Addiego will assume a seat emptied by Phil Haines's appointment this fall to a superior court judgeship.

Addiego will be the ninth woman serving in the senate.