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# THIS WEEK IN TRENTON

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**July 15, 2010**

## **Privatization Task Force Releases Report**

The Privatization Task Force, appointed by Governor Christie in March to examine areas where government services and functions could be provided by the private sector, presented its report to the Governor last Friday. The report identifies more than \$200 million in potential cost savings from across state agencies. The Task Force was chaired by former Congressman Dick Zimmer, Chair. The other members were Todd Caliguire, President, ANW / Crestwood, Inc.; Kathleen Davis, Executive VP & COO, Chamber of Commerce of Southern New Jersey; John Galandak, President, Commerce & Industry Association of New Jersey and Dr. P. Kelly Hatfield.

According to the Task Force report, to establish privatization as an effective policy, an appropriate management structure should be in place, suitable policies should be adopted and best practices should be followed. The Task Force made several specific recommendations by Department. The complete report can be found at [www.state.nj.us/governor/news/reports/2010/approved/reports\\_archive.html](http://www.state.nj.us/governor/news/reports/2010/approved/reports_archive.html).

## **Sweeney and Oliver Announce Gaming Summit**

Senate President Stephen M. Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver announced that Senator Jim Whelan and Assemblyman John Burzichelli will lead an August gaming summit that will bring together lawmakers, industry leaders and policy experts to publicly examine the recommendations of the Governor's Advisory Commission on Gaming, Sports and Entertainment. The summit's date would coincide with the expected public release of the commission's final report, which had originally been due June 30 but is now expected by August 1.

Both Sweeney and Oliver will sit on the panel. Sweeney named Senators Raymond Lesniak, Paul Sarlo and Jeff Van Drew to the panel. Oliver named Assemblyman Ralph Caputo, Assemblywoman Connie Wagner and Assemblyman Matthew W. Milam to sit on the panel.

Sweeney and Oliver said they want the summit to focus on solutions that could be implemented legislatively by the end of this year.

## **Oliver and Cryan Announce Formation of Life Sciences Task Force**

Assembly Speaker Sheila Y. Oliver and Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Cryan announced they've formed the bipartisan Assembly Task force on Life Sciences to identify ways to attract, encourage and support the life sciences industry in New Jersey. The task force would also identify and examine the barriers to life science growth in New Jersey and examine the successful programs in other states that are encouraging growth and attracting life sciences companies to see

if there are financial, tax and regulatory incentives that New Jersey should be exploring.

Democratic task force members are Assemblywoman Pamela Lampitt, Assemblyman Thomas Giblin, Assemblyman Chairman John Burzichelli, Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula and Assemblyman Wayne DeAngelo. The Republican appointments are expected to be made soon.

### **Assembly Passes and Governor Signs 2 Percent Property Tax Reform Proposal**

As expected, the Assembly passed compromise legislation imposing a 2 percent cap on property tax increases by a vote of 73-4 on Monday. Four Democratic Assembly members, Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman and Assemblyman John Wisniewski, voted against the measure. Governor Christie signed the measure on Tuesday afternoon.

The compromise legislation imposes a 2 percent cap on property tax increases but carves out exceptions for healthcare costs, pension costs, debt service and capital expenditures and emergency allocations. Voter approval of 50 percent plus one will be required to override the cap. Governor Christie conditionally vetoed S29 to reflect the compromise and the Senate concurred in that conditional veto today.

### **Bodman to Appear on Power and Politics**

Public Strategies Impact Senior Partner Roger Bodman will appear on this weekend's edition of New Jersey Power and Politics. The show will air on News 12 New Jersey on Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m. and again on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m.

### **Legislative Calendar**

The Assembly met on Monday to consider the conditional veto of S29. Senate Group 1 and 2 Committees met today. Next week, Senate Group 3 and 4 Committees will meet on July 19.