

CRIME VICTIMS BOARD OVERHAUL PASSES

A bill vastly overhauling the upper levels of the state's victims compensation office is now on the desk of Gov. Jon S. Corzine. The measure, championed by former Victims of Crime Compensation Board Chairman Richard D. Pompelio, eliminates the five full-time paid commissioners and replaces them with a single executive director and a five-member volunteer board. Pompelio, often in open conflict with his fellow board members on the issue, said paying four of the five commissioners \$100,000-plus salaries was pure patronage and a waste of money. The Senate approved the bill 37-0 and the Assembly 76-3. A-2322 creates a new Victims of Crime Compensation Agency within the Department of Treasury.