

**LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS REPORT  
NEW JERSEY LICENSED BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY**

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**The New Legislature**

On January 12, 2010 the 113<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session ended and the 114<sup>th</sup> Legislature was convened.

The face of New Jersey government began changing yesterday as two lawmakers stepped down from leadership position – Senator Richard Codey who over the years served as Senate President, Governor, and Acting Governor on numerous occasions – and the Honorable Joe Roberts, Assembly Speaker, who announced in 2009 that he would not be seeking re-election.

Stepping up in leadership are: Senator Stephen Sweeney as Senate President; Senator Barbara Buono, as the first woman ever to serve as Senate Majority Leader; Assemblywoman Sheila Oliver, as the new Assembly Speaker; and Assemblyman Cryan as the new Assembly Majority Leader.

Seven new members were sworn in in the Assembly, making the division of power 47-33 in the majority. Assemblyman Alex DeCroce was reelected by his colleagues to serve a fourth term as the Assembly Minority Leader. New members who were sworn in were: Anthony Bucco, Jr. (R-Morris); Craig Coughlin (D-Middlesex); Domenick DiCicco (R-Gloucester); angel Fuentes (D-Camden); Charles Mainor (D-Hudson); Donald Norcross (D-Camden); and Robert Schroeder (R-Bergen).

**The Governor's Farewell**

Yesterday, Governor Corzine addressed a Joint House of the Legislature to give his final State-of-the-State Address. It was moving. It was nostalgic. He told the legislators that he had hoped that he would be midway in his tenure as Governor, not at the end. He highlighted his accomplishments and thanked the Legislature for helping to achieve what they did for the people of New Jersey. He ended by saying, *“you can be sure that I will always continue to speak up for the principles that I championed in the public square. When it comes to standing up for a kinder, more progressive world, when it comes to raising my voice for our children who represent our common future, your cause still endures in my heart.”*

## “Lame Duck” Session

In the final days of the 213<sup>th</sup> Legislature over 250 bills were passed and sent to the Governor for his signature:

Among those bills were several of interest to NJLBA:

- **Ignition Interlock – A-3073** – After years of holding back passage of legislation that would require ignition interlock devices to be installed in cars of all drunk driving offenders, the bill gained momentum in the final days of this session and is now on the Governor’s Desk. **The good news:** NJLBA was able to obtain an amendment pertaining to first time offenders that stated that the judge has discretion in applying the law if the person’s BAC for .15 or less.
- **A-3974** – Establishes a Task Force on Underage Drinking in Higher Education.
- **A-4236** – Requires chain restaurants to provide calorie information for food and beverage items offered for sale. The bill only applies to restaurant chains with 5 or more locations. Supermarkets were exempted under the bill. **NJLBA was neutral.**
- **A-3042** – Revises law concerning tastings and samplings conducted by package stores. Currently, certain alcoholic beverage would have “tastings” for wine. The new law applies to **distilled spirits and beer**. NJLBA opposed.
- **A-3585** – Extends time period for renewal of lapsed alcoholic beverage retail licenses. Currently, a licensee has only 60 days from the license expiration date to file for a new license. This legislation, at first, gave authority to the ABC to issue a new license within a 5 years if the licensee applied. In the final version of the legislation, and what is now on the Governor’s desk, reduced this timeframe from 5 to 1 years going forward, but “grandfathered” all those who currently have “lapsed” licenses for 5 years. **This bill passed the Assembly and was supposed to be voted on in the Senate on Monday evening. At the last minute, the bill was one of 6 that they “forgot” to vote on. Now the bills will have to be re-introduced. The new number is S-210 – Whelan; and A-582 – Cryan.**

## Opportunities and Challenges for 2010

- Video Lottery
- BYOB
- 2-license limitation for liquor licenses
- Possible increase in the alcohol beverage license