

September 9, 2013

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 1279
(First Reprint)

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 1279 (First Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill directs the New Jersey Turnpike Authority ("Authority") to study potential opportunities for increasing revenue at rest areas and service plazas along the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway.

Consistent with my commitment to reduce the size, scope, and cost of State government, I issued Executive Order 17 creating the New Jersey Privatization Task Force ("Task Force"). The Task Force examined areas where government services and functions could be provided by the private sector and concluded that privatization offers a variety of benefits to governments and taxpayers, including lower costs, improvements in the quality of services, and access to private sector capital and professional expertise. Most important, the Task Force identified more than \$200 million in potential cost savings across State agencies.

In its May 31, 2010 report, the Task Force recommended further study of ways to generate revenue through the provision of additional and higher-quality services along the New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway. I applaud the Legislature for recognizing this recommendation; however, to fulfill that goal, the Authority needs sufficient flexibility to pursue the panoply of potential benefits from such services. Therefore, I recommend various amendments to the bill so that the Authority has the discretion to examine the full range of potential benefits from additional private sector services, including lower costs and improvements in the quality of services.

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 1279
(First Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 10:</u>	After "revenue" insert "and lowering costs"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 11:</u>	After "additional" insert "and higher quality"
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Line 21:</u>	Delete in its entirety
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Line 22:</u>	Delete "(C.52:14-19.1)"

Respectfully,

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ Charles B. McKenna

Chief Counsel to the Governor