

September 9, 2013

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 4149
(Second Reprint)**

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 4149 (Second Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill authorizes the New Jersey Racing Commission to grant a special permit to conduct a horse racing event on the beach. The bill also authorizes the Commission to grant a special permit to conduct a steeplechase race meeting at a location other than a racetrack. The bill authorizes wagering for both of these new races.

I commend the sponsors for their interest in enhancing New Jersey's self-sustaining horse racing industry and applaud their efforts to attract horse racing fans, families, and tourists to New Jersey to witness a unique horse racing event on the beach. However, I believe that the bill's provision that would allow wagering at special steeplechase race meetings deserves further consideration to determine how wagering at such events would affect surrounding local communities. An expansion of wagering events at locations other than racetracks or outside Atlantic City requires careful deliberation and is not warranted at this time.

I believe a special horse racing event on the beach will attract more people to our State while nonetheless preserving the breadth of horse racing around the State. Therefore, I am recommending that the bill be amended to only authorize the special running race meeting on the beach.

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 4149 (Second Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 2, Title, Lines 2-3:

Delete "and steeplechase racing,"

Page 3, Section 1, Line 16:

After "simulcasting" insert "within this State"

Page 3, Section 2, Lines 31-48:

Delete in their entirety

Page 4, Section 2, Lines 1-37:

Delete in their entirety

Page 4, Section 3, Line 39:

Delete "3." and insert "2."

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Charles B. McKenna

Chief Counsel to the Governor