

September 9, 2013

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 4237

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 4237 without my approval.

This bill would change the date of the 2013 general election from November 5, 2013, to October 16, 2013, the same day as the special election that I called in order to swiftly elect a new Senator to fill the vacancy in New Jersey's elected representation in the United States Senate.

Historically, New Jersey's general election takes place every year on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Moving the date of the general election has the potential to cause unnecessary voter confusion, as the general election takes place at the same time each year. While the bill would require the Secretary of State to provide appropriate notice regarding the date change, there is no guarantee that every voter would know that the general election had been moved to October. Thus, in a year in which we had to quickly adapt to fill a vacancy in the United States Senate caused by the passing of Senator Frank Lautenberg, this bill could have caused needless confusion among voters. I cannot support unnecessary legislation that carries the risk that some New Jersey citizens could lose their opportunity to vote in the general election.

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 4237 without my approval.

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Charles B. McKenna

Chief Counsel to the Governor