

SENATE BILL NO. 2389
(First Reprint)

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2389 (First Reprint) without my approval.

This bill would extend the Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health Act ("PEOSHA") to interstate authorities, including the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the Delaware River Port Authority, the Delaware River Bay Authority, the Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission, the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, and the Waterfront Commission of New York Harbor. The health and safety of public employees, including those who work for interstate authorities, is of critical importance, and I support the goal of ensuring proper occupational safeguards for employees of interstate authorities.

However, this bill fails to recognize that while PEOSHA does not presently cover interstate authorities, the authorities themselves nonetheless enforce occupational health and safety standards. Although allegations have been made that the authorities' enforcement of these standards has been imperfect, the instances of non-compliance have been anecdotal. Accordingly, I am not convinced that State regulators must necessarily step in to safeguard the health and safety of employees of interstate authorities.

Further, this bill creates the potential for jurisdictional conflicts, given that regulators from each state sharing an interstate authority may disagree as to how certain standards should be applied. Because these conflicts could undermine the

health and safety of the authorities' employees, I cannot support this legislation.

Accordingly, I herewith return Senate Bill No. 2389 (First Reprint) without my approval.

Respectfully,

[seal]

/s/ Chris Christie
Governor

Attest:

/s/ Christopher S. Porrino
Chief Counsel to the Governor