

February 5, 2015

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 3840
(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. 3840 (First Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

Under current law, cemetery companies are prohibited from engaging in the manufacture or sale of memorials, private mausoleums, and vaults. The law specifically exempts religious cemeteries from the definition of "cemetery company." This bill eliminates that exemption.

Choosing a memorial is a deeply personal decision that often impacts families at the most difficult time. Consequently, changes to this law should be carefully considered. Because this bill would take effect immediately, it could force families to start the selection of a memorial anew, adding stress and burden to an already difficult period of grief. Therefore, to ensure sufficient notice, and to provide religious cemeteries the opportunity to adjust their services, I recommend delaying the implementation of this bill by one year.

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 3840 (First Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 2, Section 2, Line 44:

Delete "immediately" and
insert "one year
following enactment"

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Christopher S. Porrino

Chief Counsel to the Governor