

September 13, 2010

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 973
(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. 973 (First Reprint) without my approval. This bill creates a "Juvenile Transfer Task Force." The purpose of the task force is to study, evaluate and develop recommendations concerning the transfer of juveniles from the juvenile justice system to the adult criminal justice system. I am vetoing this bill because this task has already been assigned to the "Prisoner Reentry Commission." Legislation sponsored last session by Assemblywoman Watson Coleman and Senator Cunningham and presently codified as P.L. 2009, c.329, created the "Prisoner Reentry Commission." One of the tasks assigned to this commission is to "evaluate and make recommendations concerning current law on juvenile waiver." That commission consists of 18 members, who, with the exception of the Chief Justice or a designee and the Administrative Director of the Courts or a designee, are the same as the proposed "Juvenile Transfer Task Force." I know of no reason why the "Prisoner Reentry Commission" should not be able to satisfy its responsibilities with regard to juvenile waiver.

This State's present fiscal condition requires us to be good stewards of our limited resources. The duplicative effort created by this bill is neither efficient nor consistent with my commitment to streamlined, effective government.

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Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 973 (First
Reprint) without my approval.

Respectfully,

/s/ Chris Christie
Governor

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ Jeffrey S. Chiesa
Chief Counsel to the Governor