

ASSEMBLY BILL No. 2173

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 2173 with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill would require that the Department of State establish and maintain a website to provide a clearinghouse of information for nonprofit organizations. I appreciate the sponsors' efforts to create a "one-stop" location for the many laudable organizations and charities working on behalf of our citizens. By using the Internet to gather a virtual library of non-profit guidance on important subjects such as volunteer opportunities and funding sources, the proposals in this bill will help those who help others work more effectively.

To ensure that all areas of State government participate in this initiative, I recommend the bill be amended to require all Departments to prominently post information relevant to nonprofits on their respective websites, and ensure that this information remains current. My recommendations also require the Department of State to create a central location on its homepage linking to each individual Department's nonprofit information. Finally, to make certain that all Departments have sufficient time to collect and display their information, I recommend allowing 180 days for implementation of the bill.

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 2173 and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 2, Title, Line 1: Delete "the Department of" and insert "departments and agencies"

Page 2, Title, Line 1: Delete "establish and maintain"

Page 2, Title, Line 2: Delete "a website to"

Page 2, Title, Line 2: Delete "a clearinghouse of"

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Page 2, Section 1, Line 9:

Delete ", in consultation with the Office"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 10:

Delete "of Information Technology"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 10:

Delete "establish and"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 10:

Delete "a" and insert "in a single accessible location on its designated home"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 11:

Delete "to serve as an"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 11:

Delete "clearinghouse"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 12:

Delete "interested in obtaining information"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 14:

Delete "on the website"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 14:

After "shall be updated" insert "at least"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 16:

Delete "various departments and State agencies; (2)" and insert "the Department of State; (2) relevant criteria applicable to such funding; (3)"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 17:

After "incorporation" delete "; (3)" and insert "and, to the extent applicable,"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 17:

After "(4) volunteer opportunities" insert "available with or through the Department of State; (5) links to the website pages of the various departments and State agencies that contain the information that such entities must maintain in accordance with this section"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 18:

Delete "(5)" and insert "(6)"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 18:

Delete "and the Chief"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 19:

Delete in its entirety and insert "deems"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 20:

After "be accessible from the" insert "Department of"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 22:

Delete "The website shall contain links to all of the departments and" and insert "Each State department or agency that provides resources to nonprofit organizations shall maintain in a single accessible location on its designated home website information regarding various resources

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available from or through that department or agency to assist those nonprofit organizations in their daily operations. The information featured shall be updated at least monthly and include, but not be limited to, information regarding: (1) available funding sources offered by the department or agency; (2) relevant eligibility criteria applicable to such funding; (3) volunteer opportunities available with or through the department or agency; and (4) any other information the Secretary of State deems necessary. The website shall be accessible from the designated home website of each such department or agency."

Page 2, Section 1, Lines 23-26:

Delete in their entirety

Page 2, Section 2, Line 29:

Delete " : identify information needed for the new" and insert "establish a standard format and icon for each department and agency to use to display the required information for nonprofit organizations."

Page 2, Section 2, Lines 30-32:

Delete in their entirety

Page 2, Section 4, Line 38:

Delete "90th" and insert "180th"

Respectfully,

/s/ Chris Christie  
Governor

[seal]

Attest:

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