

May 7, 2015

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 2996
(Third Reprint)**

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 2996 (Third Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill would permit municipalities to install hydrant locator poles on fire hydrants within municipal boundaries and adopt an ordinance or resolution mandating that snow be cleared from fire hydrants in compliance with statewide standards. This bill with its attendant regulatory system would provide a degree of uniformity to locator poles and snow-removal standards. I support the underlying purposes of the bill.

As written, however, the bill would give the Division of Local Government Services within the Department of Community Affairs the obligation to promulgate regulations governing fire hydrants. The regulation of fire hydrants is appropriately in the purview of the Division of Fire Safety, not Local Government Services.

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 2996 (Third Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

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| <u>Page 2, Section 1, Lines 9-10:</u> | Delete "Local Government Services" and insert "Fire Safety" |
| <u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 11:</u> | Delete "Local Government Services" and insert "Fire Safety" |
| <u>Page 3, Section 2, Lines 26-27:</u> | Delete "and in consultation with the Director of the Division of Fire Safety in the Department of Community Affairs," |

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Christopher S. Porrino

Chief Counsel to the Governor