

November 9, 2015

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 4607

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 4607 without my approval.

In June, I signed the Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriations Act, which, for the sixth year in a row, achieved a balanced budget that maintains fiscal discipline while also providing for essential services. Achieving a responsible budget required that I line-item veto a number of provisions sent to me by the Legislature, including those items that would have been funded through increased taxes.

Separately, the Legislature has sent me a number of bills that seek to spend money outside the budget process. These supplemental appropriations would unbalance the State's budget, and cause the State to spend beyond its means. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that I am vetoing this bill, which would make Fiscal Year 2016 supplemental appropriations totaling \$6.5 million.

The legislative history of this bill demonstrates that it was introduced, considered by the budget committees, and passed by the Legislature during the same three-day period as the FY 2016 budget. It is unclear why the provisions of this bill were not included in the FY 2016 appropriations bill. As I have repeatedly stated since taking office, appropriations should be considered in the context of negotiating a balanced budget, and not through piece-meal legislation. Because I continue to object to disjointed, haphazard, and irresponsible spending practices, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 4607 without my approval.

[seal]

Respectfully,
/s/ Chris Christie
Governor

Attest:

/s/ Thomas P. Scriver
Chief Counsel to the Governor