



Unethical Delay

736 Days After Governor Christie Proposed Rigorous Ethics Reforms The Legislative Democrats Have Scheduled ZERO Hearings and Nothing Has Been Enacted

"Ethics reform in New Jersey has been a patchwork of half measures that failed to be fair and uniform, left gaping loopholes for special interests to maneuver through and fell far short of what the public demands... These measures are about good, open and honest government, where the playing field is level for everyone and the rules are unambiguous."

- Governor Chris Christie Proposes Rigorous Ethics Reforms Package, Press Release, September 8, 2010

A New, Detailed Annual Financial Disclosure Statement From Both The Executive And Legislative Branches

731 Days Since Legislation Introduced

- Governor Christie issued a conditional veto of, and called upon the legislature to pass, A-2768. The conditionally vetoed bill would set in statute a May 15th deadline for the filing of financial disclosure statements (FDS) and sets the filing requirements of an FDS in law – making them permanent. The Governor's conditional veto also requires, for the very first time, members of the legislators and their senior staff to file the same FDS as the executive branch. Governor Christie's conditional veto of A-2768 increases transparency by expanding the statutory requirements of financial disclosures to more closely track federal guidelines. Changes include:
 - Expanded value classes for asset and income disclosure (a maximum category of 50M instead of the current 500K);
 - Inclusion of members of the Legislature and the Legislature's professional staff;
 - Filers required to provide detailed disclosure of all assets, real property, and contractual arrangements with former and future employers;
 - Required disclosure of all parties for whom compensation was received to promote, oppose or prepare legislation; and,
 - Codification of all disclosure requirements listed on current state FDS forms as well as certain information presently required to be disclosed on federal disclosure forms (e.g. expanded value

classes ranging up to \$50,000,000.00)

A Full Ban On Dual Office Holding That Ends Grandfathering

975 Days Since Legislation Introduced

- Governor Christie's plan eliminates dual office holding, and institutes a specific end to the grandfathering period at the conclusion of 2010-2011 Legislature rather than the current open ended grandfathering period that permits dual office holding to persist.

A Ban On Dual Employment For All State, County And Local Officials And Employees

912 Days Since Legislation Introduced

- All employees would be prohibited from drawing a salary at a 2nd government position - state, county or local.

An Effective Conflict Of Interest Standard For Legislators

No Legislation Has Been Introduced

- Governor Christie's plan redefines conflict of interest disclosures for Legislators to require mandatory recusal and strict disclosure of legislative conflicts of interest. This puts an end to self-evaluation of whether a Member of the Legislature "feels" there is a conflict.

Pension Forfeiture For Convicted Public Officials

975 Days Since Legislation Introduced

- Requiring Pension Forfeiture For Public Officials Convicted Of Crimes That Involve Or Touch Upon The Public Office.

Forfeiture Of Campaign Funds For Convicted Public Officials

975 Days Since Legislation Introduced

- Requiring Forfeiture Of Campaign Funds For Officials Convicted Of A Crime For First Through Fourth Degree Offenses.

Prohibition On The Use Of Campaign Funds For Criminal Defense Costs

934 Days Since Legislation Introduced

- Ban On Use Of Campaign Funds For Criminal Defense Costs.

Prohibition On "Wheeling" On Campaign Funds

975 Days Since Legislation Introduced

- Restrict The Practice Of "Wheeling" by imposing contribution limitations on county and municipal committees for committee-to-committee contributions and committee contributions to out-of-county or out-of municipality candidates.

Uniform Public Contracting Standards

707 Days Since Legislation Introduced

- Impose A Uniform Set Of Contract Award Standards on all levels of government and all branches of state government. Governor Christie's proposal would end the "fair and open contract" exception for businesses that make reportable campaign contributions at the legislative, county and municipal levels, yet are able to receive contract awards valued greater than \$17,500 with local governments – a practice that is not permitted at the state/gubernatorial level.

Extend Pay-To-Play Limitations To Labor Unions

No Legislation Has Been Introduced

- Close Pay-To-Play Loopholes by leveling the playing field with changes to law that would make labor unions subject to the same contribution requirements which apply to other entities doing business with the state.

Shadow Government Reform

533 Days Since Legislation Introduced

- The legislation put forward by Governor Christie will establish or enhance oversight and accountability at the designated entities through the following mechanisms:
 - Provide gubernatorial oversight through veto within a 15-day window and mandatory service of agendas and minutes upon Governor's Authorities Unit request;
 - Expressly provide that board members will serve without compensation;
 - Provide the Governor with authority to remove a member of the governing body of a regional authority for cause;
 - Require financial disclosure statements from the members of the governing bodies of each regional authority;
 - Expressly define entities as "regional authorities" so that they will be subject to other forms of state oversight, including Executive Orders and ethics requirements;
 - Explicitly grant the state Comptroller the authority to inquire into the financials of the regional authorities; and
 - Subject all "regional authorities" to the New Jersey Conflicts of Interest Law administered by the State Ethics Commission.