

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 5669

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 15 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am appending to Assembly Bill No. 5669, at the time of my signing it, my statement of items, or parts thereof, to which I object so that each item, or part thereof, so objected to shall not take effect.

The State budget that I am signing today contains nearly all of the spending priorities that I included in my Budget Message for Fiscal Year 2024. I commend my partners in the Legislature for their hard work in passing this budget, which makes New Jersey more affordable for our working and middle class families and seniors, invests in our schools and communities, grows our economy, maintains a robust surplus, and furthers New Jersey's path to long-term fiscal stability.

Enacting a budget is difficult work that requires good faith and cooperation. It is also an act of immense significance as the failure to have an appropriations act enacted at the commencement of the fiscal year leaves the State without any legal authority to expend funds for the continued operation of government. The duty of compiling the annual appropriations act, which contains thousands of lines of text, hundreds of individual line-items, and tens of billions of dollars of appropriations, is no doubt a difficult undertaking, especially when confronted with a constitutional deadline which if not met, imperils the continuation of the services and programs upon which our residents rely.

It is understandable that inadvertent errors may occur when tasked with crafting a budget bill in the format required by law based on a complex series of negotiations that were had over the

many months. Unfortunately, the Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2024, as presented to me, does not accurately reflect the comprehensive deal struck with my legislative partners. Therefore, I am required to make several changes to the bill before me in order to ensure consistency with legislative intent and our agreed upon spending plan for Fiscal Year 2024.

Accordingly, I am appending to Assembly Bill No. 5669, at the time of my signing it, this statement of items, or parts thereof, to which I object and which shall not take effect.

[seal]

Respectfully,
/s/ Philip D. Murphy
Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg
Chief Counsel to the Governor