

September 24, 2012

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 2169**

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 2169 with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill imposes a moratorium on the licensing of any new emergency medical service helicopter response ("EMSHR") units pending an evaluation and report by the Commissioner of the Department of Health ("DOH") concerning the regulations that govern the operations of EMSHR units in the State. Under the bill, the Commissioner is required to submit the report to the Governor and the Legislature within six months after the effective date of the bill.

According to the bill, the report must include the following: whether current regulations provide for appropriate minimum safety and performance standards for EMSHR units and vehicle licensees; whether the criteria for selecting new bases of operation for EMSHR unit vehicles should include the sources of trauma emergencies; whether a needs-based analysis is warranted with respect to the location from which the EMSHR unit vehicles operate; whether patients are being transported to facilities that are able to provide the appropriate level of care; the advisability of establishing a centralized EMSHR unit vehicle dispatch system based in the Division of State Police in the Department of Law and Public Safety; the Commissioner's recommendation as to whether the moratorium on the licensing of new EMSHR units should continue and, if so, the recommended duration of, and reasons for, its extension; and any other information that the Commissioner deems important to report.

While I appreciate the Legislature's concerns regarding the safety and efficiency of our State's EMSHR units, I note

that a moratorium will limit DOH's ability to continue to license those EMSHR units that are fully capable of serving injured persons in a safe and efficient manner. Therefore, a moratorium is not only unwarranted, but potentially dangerous. However, a streamlined report by the Commissioner of DOH concerning the regulations that govern the operations of EMSHR units in the State is appropriate and warranted.

Therefore, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 2169 and recommend that it be amended as follows:

<u>Page 2, Title, Line 1:</u>	Delete "establishing a moratorium on" and insert "concerning"
<u>Page 2, Title, Lines 2-3:</u>	Delete "pending an evaluation and report"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Lines 8-14:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Line 16:</u>	Delete "2." and insert "1."
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Line 16:</u>	Delete "six" and insert "twelve"
<u>Page 2, Section 3, Line 18:</u>	Delete "and Senior Services"
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Lines 31-36:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Line 37:</u>	Delete "(4)" and insert "(2)"
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Line 37:</u>	After "transported" insert "by air"
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Line 38:</u>	After "care;" insert "and"
<u>Page 2, Section 2, Lines 39-47:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 3, Section 2, Line 1:</u>	Delete "(7)" and insert "(3)"
<u>Page 3, Section 3, Line 4:</u>	Delete "3." and insert "2."

Respectfully,

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ Charles B. McKenna

Chief Counsel to the Governor