

Search All of NJ

Home Newsroom Media Administration NJ's Priorities Contact Us

Press Releases Public Addresses Executive Orders Press Kit Reports

Home > Newsroom > Press Releases > 2016

# Governor Christie: Speaker Prieto's Legislation Is The Union Protection Bill

Thursday, April 7, 2016 Tags: [Taxes](#)



Stay Connected with Social Media

Stay Connected with Email Alerts

LIKE THIS PAGE? SHARE IT WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

SHARE

Governor Christie: Speaker Prieto's Legislation Is The Union Prot...

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-\\_d-vn9ZOk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-_d-vn9ZOk)

### Transcript:

Governor Christie: It is a completely ineffective solution. First off, imagine this, if you really want to solve a problem that has been decades long, form a committee. That is definitely the way to solve something. He wants to start with a five person committee, that includes two of the people who have been contributors to the downfall of Atlantic City: the mayor and the council president. He wants to do nothing significant for the first year. Set benchmarks for them to reach in the first year. And at the end of the first year, then we get a little more authority, but nowhere near the authority we have in the bill that was passed by the senate. Then we go another year- oh and do not let me forget for a second- we have another level of bureaucracy put in. The benchmarks can be established by the committee but then the committee cannot determine whether the benchmarks have been met. A special master has to be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who, having known him now for fifteen years, I can guarantee you knows nothing about this topic. But he will pick a special master for reasons that no one can really explain. If you trust the people on the committee to set the benchmarks, why don't you trust the people on the committee to determine if the benchmarks have been met? But this is another layer of bureaucracy that the Speaker wants. And all of this is just to delay the inevitable, Maddie. That is all it is. And then nothing can be done regarding labor costs in Atlantic City until year three. So that means that the people of the state of New Jersey are going to allow their credit card to be used by Atlantic City for another two years at least with no guarantee of substantive changes to the way the city is operating. And I thought it was very interesting, if there was any illusion any longer about why the Speaker was doing this, I think the comments this morning by AFL-CIO President Wowkanech made it really clear. He said that unions built this city and unions run this city. Well, ok. If that is what the people of New Jersey are comfortable with. That the unions are going to run the city, not the elected officials. Not the elected officials in Atlantic City nor the elected officials in Trenton, obviously with Speaker Prieto. He is taking his marching orders from these kinds of folks. So, it is not a solution to the problem. It

creates more bureaucracy, more delay and you have to think about how well thought out this one is. I have been called three times in the last half an hour on my way to this event with changes they are making to the bill in the committee. They got wrong the PILOT amounts for the city, they got wrong additional payments that the other bill required of the casinos. Their original draft of the bill was 200 million dollars less from the casinos so I guess someone tapped the Speaker on the shoulder and got him to put that money back in. But it tells you how haphazard and careless this effort is, it is a desperate effort for him to protect his political patrons, rather than the citizens of the state. And so it is not something that I would even begin to think about supporting and quite frankly I do not think he is even likely to get it voted on positively by the Assembly. Last thing he said today, "I will not allow the bill to be voted on today", well you know why he will not allow the bill to be voted on today because he cannot. He needs sixty votes to get it to the floor today, he has nowhere near sixty votes for this bureaucratic disaster. So he is giving away snow in winter but hopefully he will continue to write the bill as he goes along while he is asking his members and Republican members to vote on it so I do not think anything has changed today. Here is the bottom line, Maddie, Atlantic City will run out of money in the middle of May. They will not be able to pay their debt service, they will not be able to make their school payments, they will not be able to pay their employees by the middle of May. And the only reason it is lasting that long is because they played some, you know, financial trickery by putting off their payroll instead of it being paid every two weeks being paid once a month. But you still owe the same amount of money so you know everybody around here, I was talking to one of the folks upstairs who told me that he was able to obtain a credit card. And he knows, and the Speaker should know this, and the Mayor should know this, he knows that if he buys something he has got to pay for it. Now if he does not pay for it for thirty days but pays for it at the end of thirty days he just pays that amount. If it goes over thirty days he knows he has got to pay interest, it gets more and more expensive. They are just putting off the inevitable and I am not going to permit the taxpayers of the State of New Jersey to be taken for a ride by Atlantic City, that simple. And this bill this morning is the union protection bill by the Speaker, so no interest in it.

###

**Press Contact:**

Brian Murray  
609-777-2600



[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Legal Statement & Disclaimers](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#) | 

Statewide: [NJ Home](#) | [Services A to Z](#) | [Departments/Agencies](#) | [FAQs](#)  
Office of the Governor: [Home](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Media](#) | [Administration](#) | [NJ's Priorities](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Copyright © State of New Jersey, 1996-2017  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 001  
Trenton, NJ 08625  
609-292-6000