

January 13, 2014

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 3972
(Second Reprint)**

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 3972 (Second Reprint) without my approval.

This bill would create a twenty-one member task force to study and evaluate issues associated with the establishment and implementation of full-day kindergarten.

Ensuring that all children have access to an excellent education is a top priority of my Administration. To this end, the Division of Early Childhood Education within the Department of Education has annually tracked the number of full-day kindergarten programs throughout the State and has consistently assisted school districts pursuing a full-day kindergarten program. Currently, almost three-quarters of school districts offer a full-day kindergarten program, and each year more and more districts transition to a full-day program. In light of the work currently carried out by the Division of Early Childhood Education, the contemplated purpose of the sizable task force created by this bill would be redundant. Further, while the Department of Education is ready, willing, and able to assist districts in implementing a full-day program, the decision of whether to offer a full-day program should reside with local boards of education and their constituents.

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 3972
(Second Reprint) without my approval.

Respectfully,
/s/ Chris Christie
Governor

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ Christopher S. Porrino
Chief Counsel to the Governor