

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 5283

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 5283 without my approval.

This bill directs all Title 45 professional or occupational licensing boards in New Jersey to collect data regarding comparable boards from each state in the United States to determine the national average processing time for the issued credentials. The national average processing times are then to be implemented as the deadlines for application approvals within New Jersey, and if those deadlines are missed, licensing fee revenues collected by the board must be used to contract with a third party to develop best practices to meet the national average processing time. The boards are required to subsequently implement the best practices as developed by the third party.

If this bill were to be signed into law, over 50 professional boards would each be required to do national surveys of application processing times of all other states regulating their given professions for each category and sub-category of licenses issued. This is problematic for a number of reasons. First, other states with regulated professions will not necessarily have as stringent requirements as those imposed in New Jersey, casting doubt on the utility of these statistical comparisons. Second, requiring professional boards to conduct these national surveys will utilize substantial resources that could be put to better use processing applications. Third, this arduous process would be largely duplicative of work already undertaken by the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety ("DCA"). The DCA routinely meets to review, identify, and discuss metrics for each board, including application review time, and is already well-

equipped to identify any weak spots and to implement appropriate solutions when delays are identified. Moreover, DCA has made significant strides in improving and streamlining the boards' approval processes in recent years.

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 5283 without my approval.

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor