

March 18, 2019

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 4904
(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. 4904 (Second Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

Assembly Bill No. 4904 (Second Reprint) permits a municipality, upon adoption of a resolution, to waive interest on delinquent property tax installment payments owed by a federal employee or contractor who is not working or who is working but is not being paid due to a full or partial shutdown of operations of the federal government.

I applaud the Legislature for stepping in and assisting the federal employees living in New Jersey who have suffered due to the strongarm tactics used by President Trump in furtherance of his misguided agenda. As is too often the case, the problems that the President sows have become the troubles that New Jersey's working and middle-class families reap. While President Trump continues to play political games with the lives of our residents and their families, my Administration remains committed to protecting our State from the thoughtless and impulsive actions of President Trump.

While this bill is laudable in its objective, I believe that certain changes should be made to clarify and strengthen its protections. The changes I am suggesting will provide relief from penalties for unpaid property taxes for households in which the principal income earner is a federal employee or contractor even if that person is not the title owner or property taxpayer. The changes also ensure that the relief provided by the bill applies not only to a federal budget impasse between the President and

Congress, but also to an impasse between the two Houses of Congress.

Additionally, the changes remove a requirement that the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs adopt rules to effectuate the bill, which would have significantly delayed its implementation. The changes also waive interest and penalties in the event a shutdown ends less than 14 days before a property tax installment payment is due. These changes will ensure that impacted taxpayers in participating municipalities are afforded an opportunity to benefit from the bill.

Therefore, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 4904 (Second Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 3, Section 1, Line 1: After "of" delete "the" and insert "a"

Page 3, Section 1, Line 1: After "resolution" insert "effectuating the provisions of paragraph (2) of this subsection"

Page 3, Section 1, Line 12: After "(4)" insert "(a) As used in this paragraph:

'Eligible resident' means either:

(i) an employee of a federal government agency who is furloughed because of a shutdown and receives unemployment benefits during the shutdown or who works during a shutdown but is not paid because of the shutdown; or

(ii) a contractor whose pay is received through a contract with a federal government agency but whose payment is delayed or diminished because of a shutdown, provided that the contractor receives unemployment benefits during the shutdown.

'Shutdown' means any period in which there is more than a 24-hour lapse in appropriations for any federal government

agency as a result of a failure to enact a regular appropriations bill or continuing resolution due to an impasse between the President and the Congress of the United States or between the two Houses of Congress.
 (b)"

- Page 3, Section 1, Line 13: Delete "with respect to a"
- Page 3, Section 1, Lines 14-23: Delete in their entirety
- Page 3, Section 1, Line 24: Delete "delinquent taxpayer resides" and insert "a municipality shall not charge interest to a delinquent taxpayer who is an eligible resident or who resides with a spouse, partner in a civil union, or domestic partner who is an eligible resident,"
- Page 3, Section 1, Line 25: Delete "(a) the federal" and insert "(i) a"
- Page 3, Section 1, Line 25: Delete "occurs" and insert "remains in effect for more than 21 days and either ends less than 14 days"
- Page 3, Section 1, Line 28: Delete "and" and insert "or"
- Page 3, Section 1, Line 30: Delete "(b)" and insert "(ii)"
- Page 3, Section 1, Line 33: Delete "plus" and insert "less"
- Page 3, Section 1, Line 37: Before "Interest" insert "(c)"
- Page 3, Section 1, Line 39: Delete "their pay is received" and insert "the delinquent property taxpayer's pay, or the pay of the delinquent property taxpayer's spouse, partner in a civil union, or domestic partner, is derived"
- Page 3, Section 1, Line 40: Delete "full or partial"
- Page 3, Section 1, Line 40: Delete "of operations due to a federal"
- Page 3, Section 1, Line 41: Delete "budget impasse"
- Page 3, Section 1, Line 43: Delete "full or partial"
- Page 3, Section 1, Line 43: Delete "of"
- Page 3, Section 1, Line 44: Delete "operations due to a federal budget impasse"
- Page 3, Section 1, Line 45: Delete "that proof shall be in the form of verification meeting"

Page 3, Section 1, Lines 46-47: Delete in their entirety

Page 4, Section 1, Lines 1-3: Delete in their entirety

Page 4, Section 1, Line 4: Delete "(C.52:14B-1 et seq.) establishing" and insert "the resolution adopted by the governing body of the municipality pursuant to subparagraph (b) of this paragraph shall establish"

Page 4, Section 1, Line 5: Delete "employment of a contractor whose" and insert "that the contractor's"

Page 4, Section 1, Line 5: Delete "from" and insert "through a contract with"

Page 4, Section 1, Line 6: Delete "full or partial"

Page 4, Section 1, Line 6: Delete "of operations"

Page 4, Section 1, Line 7: Delete "due to a federal budget impasse"

Page 4, Section 1, Line 8: Before "The" insert "(d)"

Page 4, Section 1, Line 11: Delete "subparagraph (b) of paragraph (4) of this"

Page 4, Section 1, Line 12: Delete "subsection" and insert "part (ii) of subparagraph (b) of this paragraph"

[seal]

Respectfully,
/s/ Philip D. Murphy
Governor

Attest:
/s/ Matthew J. Platkin
Chief Counsel to the Governor