GOVERNOR’S STATEMENT UPON SIGNING
SENATE BILL NO. 4069

I commend the Legislature for its swift passage of Senate Bill No. 4069. This bill will ensure that voters who requested mail-in ballots for any election in 2017 and 2018 will receive a mail-in ballot in all future elections, unless the voter informs his or her county clerk otherwise. Many voters who previously requested mail-in ballots will expect to receive them again in future elections, and I am pleased to sign a bill into law that will accommodate these voters.

I continue to believe that our democracy is stronger when we make it easier for New Jersey citizens to participate, and that is why I will continue to advocate for reforms that would expand access to the ballot box, such as expanded early in-person voting, same-day voter registration, online voter registration, allowing 17-year-olds to vote in primary elections if they will be 18 years old by the general election, and allowing individuals on probation and parole to vote.

This bill appropriates $2 million from the General Fund to the Department of State to be distributed among the counties as reimbursement for the costs of implementing the law. On June 30, 2019, I issued Executive Order No. 73 (2019) directing the Director of the Division of Budget and Accounting (“Director”) to place certain items of appropriation representing discretionary spending into reserve to ensure that the State budget remains in balance while maintaining a responsible anticipated closing fund balance and making the statutorily required credit to the Surplus Revenue Fund, more commonly known as the rainy day fund, consistent with law. Section 1 of Executive Order No. 73 (2019) authorized and directed the Director to supplement the list of reserved items of appropriation throughout Fiscal Year 2020 as necessary to effectuate the purposes of my order. In accordance with Executive Order No. 73 (2019), the Director shall review the appropriation contained in this bill to determine whether this appropriation should be reserved based on the factors outlined in the Executive Order.

Date: August 28, 2019

/s/ Philip D. Murphy
Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg
Deputy Chief Counsel to the Governor