

**SENATE BILL NO. 945**  
**(Third Reprint)**

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 945 (Third Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill is an effort to prevent the illegal trade of tigers and their body parts by expanding existing mechanisms for registering and accounting for tigers in New Jersey.

I support the sponsors' intent of putting forward legislation that acknowledges the value of protecting tigers and preserving public safety, as well as preventing the illegal use and trade of tigers and their parts. This bill as drafted, however, is narrowly circumscribed to a single species. As such, it fails to address the deadly, dangerous, and illegal use and trade of myriad other endangered species and exotic animals that are fodder for underground wildlife trafficking. Thus, although this bill addresses the suffering imposed on tigers, as well as the accordant public health, safety, and well-being concerns associated with the illicit trade of tigers, this bill fails to address the infectious disease threats, physical dangers, and misery that are part and parcel of the broader, multi-billion dollar endangered and exotic animal black market. Accordingly, the more reasoned and practical approach is to address these issues comprehensively and holistically, rather than on a species-by-species basis.

Therefore, I return this bill with my recommendations to create a three-member task force chaired by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, or his designee, to study the illegal use and trade of all endangered and exotic species, and to report back to me and the Legislature with recommendations on a comprehensive approach to addressing the

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health, safety, and well-being concerns created by the illegal black market dealing of endangered species and exotic animals.

Accordingly, I herewith return Senate Bill No. 945 (Third Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 2, Title, Lines 1-2:

Delete "concerning tigers, supplementing Title 23 of the Revised Statutes, and amending P.L. 1979, c.304" and insert "establishing the Task Force on the Illegal Trade of Endangered Species and Exotic Animals"

Page 2, Line 6:

Insert new sections 1 through 3:

"1. There is established the "Task Force on the Illegal Trade of Endangered Species and Exotic Animals." The task force shall perform an evaluation of permitting, registration, and reporting concerning all "endangered species" and "exotic animals" as those terms are defined in federal law, rule, or regulation, or as defined in the "Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act," P.L.1973, c.309 (C.23:2A-1 et seq.) or P.L.1962, c.127 (C.23:4-63 et seq.), and any regulations promulgated pursuant thereto. The task force shall make recommendations for the curtailing of the illegal trade of endangered species and exotic animals.

2. a. The task force shall be comprised of three members who shall be appointed within 30 days of the effective date of this act as follows:

(1) The Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, or his designee, who shall serve as chairperson of the task force;

(2) Two public members appointed by the Governor. Vacancies in the membership of the task force shall be filled in the same manner provided for the original appointments.

b. The task force shall organize within 30 days following the appointment of a majority of its members.

c. The members shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties and within the limits of funds available to the task force.

d. The task force shall make recommendations by a majority vote of its members.

e. The Department of Environmental Protection shall provide staff support to the task force.

3. No sooner than 90 days but not later than 180 days after the task force organizes, the task force shall submit its recommendations to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L. 1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1). "

Page 2, Section 1, Lines 7-28:

Delete in their entirety

Page 2, Section 2, Lines 30-40:

Delete in their entirety

Page 3, Section 2, Lines 1-44:

Delete in their entirety

Page 4, Section 2, Lines 1-27:

Delete in their entirety

Page 4, Section 3, Lines 29-46:

Delete in their entirety

Page 5, Section 3, Lines 1-22:

Delete in their entirety

Page 5, Section 4, Lines 24-36:

Delete in their entirety

Page 5, Section 5, Lines 38-46:

Delete in their entirety

Page 6, Section 5, Lines 1-21:

Delete in their entirety

Page 6, Section 6, Lines 23-45:

Delete in their entirety

Page 7, Section 6, Lines 1-33:

Delete in their entirety

Page 7, Section 7, Lines 35-44:

Delete in their entirety

Page 8, Section 7, Lines 1-38:

Delete in their entirety

Page 8, Section 8, Lines 40-47:

Delete in their entirety

Page 9, Section 8, Lines 1-2:

Delete in their entirety

Page 9, Section 9, Lines 4-12:

Delete in their entirety

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Page 9, Section 10, Lines 14-36: Delete in their entirety

Page 9, Section 11, Lines 38-47: Delete in their entirety

Page 10, Section 12, Line 1: Delete "on the 180<sup>th</sup> day  
after the date of" and  
insert "immediately and  
shall expire upon the  
submission by the task  
force of the task  
of recommendations to its  
Governor and the  
Legislature, or 180 days  
after the task force  
organizes, whichever is  
sooner."

Page 10, Section 12, Lines 2-4: Delete in their entirety

Respectfully,

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ Charles B. McKenna

Chief Counsel to the Governor