

May 7, 2015

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 3360  
(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. 3360 (Second Reprint) without my approval.

This bill would require every school district with a middle school or high school – more than 500 districts – to form, organize, and staff a food services advisory committee if, after surveying each student annually, any student in such school indicates an unmet food preference with their school's current meal options. The bill mandates that each food services advisory committee meet at least three times during each school year to recommend school breakfast and lunch menu options that better reflect the cultural, traditional, and dietary food preferences of the student body including, but not limited to, vegetarian and vegan meal options.

While school districts should endeavor to provide nutritious meal options that their students prefer, the bill would unnecessarily burden hundreds of school districts in New Jersey. The burden includes the creation, distribution, and review of food surveys to every student enrolled in a middle school or high school and the formation of an eleven-member food advisory committee if even one student in the entire district expresses any displeasure. In addition, the bill prescribes, among other things, the committee's membership, how often the committee meets, its considerations, and even the contents of the annual student surveys.

In light of the many challenges school districts already encounter in order to provide an education worthy of our children's future, I cannot support the additional costs and burdens this bill would impose. Instead, local school officials

should be encouraged to work constructively with students and parents to offer meal options that reflect their students' dietary preferences. In the event students and parents are dissatisfied with the responsiveness of school officials, they can raise their concerns to the local board of education or elected officials.

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 3360 (Second Reprint) without my approval.

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Christopher S. Porrino

Chief Counsel to the Governor