

August 10, 2015

**SENATE BILL NO. 2787**  
**(First Reprint)**

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2787 (First Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill would create within the Department of Corrections a Vocational Training Pilot Program at one State correctional facility to be designed and implemented by a planning board that includes State officials, representatives from various fields, and three public members. Along with administering the program, the planning board would also report to the Governor and the Legislature on the progress and results of the pilot program, as well as on the advisability of its continuation or expansion. The bill also codifies an existing departmental practice of compensating inmates for educational and workforce participation.

I support enhancing the vocational programs offered to the inmates of New Jersey's correctional facilities. As Governor, providing a second chance to those who have made mistakes and are seeking to reclaim their lives through employment and other opportunities has been one of my top priorities. However, I am concerned that the bill's provisions may not take advantage of the full panoply of vocational training and programming expertise available throughout the State. Accordingly, I am offering modest amendments to this legislation that will clarify the composition of the planning board to ensure that it is appropriately equipped to fulfill its legislatively prescribed mandate.

I am confident that the amendments I offer today will serve to improve successful vocational programs already being offered, identify other potential programs, and align vocational programming with the current demands of New Jersey's businesses and industries. By providing an appropriate framework for the enhancement of these initiatives, we can achieve the laudable goal of improving post-

release employment opportunities for our citizens who earnestly seek a second chance at a rewarding and fulfilling life.

Accordingly, I herewith return Senate Bill No. 2787 (First Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 2, Section 1, Line 27: After "officio" insert ", who shall serve as chairperson"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 30: After ";" insert "and"

Page 2, Section 1, Lines 31-36: Delete in their entirety

Page 2, Section 1, Line 37: Delete "(7) three" and insert "(4) six"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 37: After "members" insert "appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a representative of the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, one of whom shall be a representative of the New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council, one of whom shall be a representative of the New Jersey Council of County Vocational-Technical Schools"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 37: Delete "of whom shall be appointed by" and insert "upon the recommendation of"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 38: Delete "of whom shall be appointed by" and insert "upon the recommendation of"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 39: Delete "of whom shall be"

Page 2, Section 1, Line 40: Delete "appointed" and insert "selected"

Page 3, Section 1, Line 9: Delete "but may be reimbursed"

Page 3, Section 1, Lines 10-11: Delete in their entirety

Page 3, Section, 1 Line 12: Delete "the planning board for its purposes"

Respectfully,

[seal]

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Thomas P. Scervo

Chief Counsel to the Governor