

SENATE BILL NO. 300
(Second Reprint)

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 300 (Second Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill would establish a 20-member New Jersey Out-of-School Time Advisory Commission to examine out-of-school programs in New Jersey, adopt statewide standards, and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature. The commission would be comprised of state officials, legislators, and 14 public members, each representing a designated interest group or field.

Throughout New Jersey, our children benefit from participating in high quality out-of-school programs. Every day, these organizations provide our school-aged children with enriching experiences that help them mature into well-rounded, productive members of society. I appreciate the invaluable support and guidance these programs provide to our youth.

In essence, this bill aims to improve the design and delivery of these programs through a collaborative review. While I support that worthy objective, I believe the bill would benefit from some amendments. Specifically, the proposed composition of the commission fails to include any representatives from actual out-of-school program providers. To ensure meaningful collaboration and the sharing of best practices, I recommend reconstituting the commission's membership to include representatives from out-of-school program providers without making the commission cumbersome.

Accordingly, I herewith return Senate Bill No. 300 (Second Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 2, Section 1, Line 8: Delete "20"

Page 2, Section 1, Lines 9-26: Delete in their entirety and insert "seven members, including the Commissioner of Education, ex officio, or a designee, who shall serve as chairperson, and six public members appointed by the Governor, including at least one representative of an organization that provides out-of-school programs to children in New Jersey."

Page 2, Section 2, Line 32: Delete "but shall be entitled to their actual and" and insert "."

Page 2, Section 2, Lines 33-35: Delete in their entirety

Page 2, Section 3, Line 38: Delete "shall select a" and insert "the"

Page 2, Section 3, Line 38: Delete "and a" and insert "may select a"

Page 2, Section 3, Line 39: Delete in its entirety

Page 2, Section 4, Line 42: Delete "shall" and insert "may"

Page 3, Section 4, Lines 1-2: Delete ", and shall fix their compensation within the amounts made available"

Page 3, Section 5, Line 13: Delete "Statewide standards" and insert "best practices"

Page 3, Section 7, Line 30: Delete ", including any recommended legislation,"

Page 3, Section 7, Lines 31-32: Delete ", the Senate Education Committee, and the Assembly Education Committee" and insert "and the Legislature"

Respectfully,

[seal]

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Thomas P. Scrivo

Chief Counsel to the Governor