

SENATE BILL NO. 3000

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 15 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am appending to Senate Bill No. 3000, at the time of my signing it, my statement of items, or parts thereof, to which I object so that each item, or part thereof, so objected to shall not take effect.

This budget reflects difficult choices and formidable challenges, but is consistent with our key principles including living within our means without raising the sales or income tax and investing in education and children. I support the overall plan presented in this bill. There is, however, one area in which a modification is appropriate. More specifically, the provision of this bill governing expenditures for State workforce development programs designed to train and educate workers with the job skills demanded in the workplace, including apprenticeship programs, adult literacy and lifelong learning programs as well as basic skill programs for workers, is unduly restrictive and could promote inefficiency. New Jersey currently has a highly fragmented workforce development system. Several departments offer programs designed to prepare individuals for jobs, connect them with job opportunities and develop and improve their skills so that they can readily qualify for a new or better jobs.

I am, accordingly, appending to Senate Bill No. 3000 at the time of my signing it, this statement of objections to the item to which I object and which shall not take effect.

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261 ìNo funds appropriated in this act shall be expended for any State workforce development programs, including but not limited to apprenticeship programs, adult literacy and lifelong learning programs, and basic skills programs for workers, which programs are within any department of State government other than the Department of Labor as of July 1, 2003, if such programs are transferred to the Department of Labor during the fiscal year.î

The quoted language is deleted in its entirety.

Respectfully,

Governor

Attest:

Chief Counsel to the Governor