

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 137

WHEREAS, beginning on October 28, 2012, and continuing through October 30, 2012, Superstorm Sandy ("Sandy") struck the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Sandy destroyed entire communities and caused significant damage, or complete destruction, to thousands of homes across the State; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the efforts of first responders, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, State and local governmental leaders, and all citizens of New Jersey, our State continues to recover and rebuild; and

WHEREAS, since Sandy struck New Jersey, nonprofit organizations and volunteers have generously donated their resources, time, and talents to aid in the State's recovery; and

WHEREAS, some nonprofit groups that are organized primarily for the construction and reconstruction of residences for persons displaced by disasters have contributed volunteers and resources to assist in New Jersey's rebuilding; and

WHEREAS, these nonprofit organizations may recruit high school students, and other minor volunteers, to assist in the repair, construction, and rebuilding of homes damaged or destroyed by Sandy; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 34:2-21.17d restricts the nature and manner of volunteer construction work that minors between the ages of fourteen and seventeen may perform as volunteers for nonprofit housing organizations; and

WHEREAS, allowing available volunteers who are minors to engage in repair and reconstruction efforts, while maintaining all other safeguards that protect minors engaged in construction, will help many New Jerseyans return to their homes; and

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2012, in light of the dangers posed by Sandy, and pursuant to the authority provided under the Constitution and statutes of the State of New Jersey, particularly the provisions

of N.J.S.A. App. A:9-33, et seq., N.J.S.A. 38A:3-6.1, and N.J.S.A. 38A:2-4, and all amendments and supplements thereto, I declared a State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. App. A:9-34 and -51, I reserved the right to utilize and employ all available resources of the State government, and of each and every political subdivision of the State, to protect against the emergency created by Sandy; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.J.S.A. App. A:9-40, I declared that, due to the State of Emergency, no municipality, county, or any other agency or political subdivision of this State shall enact or enforce any order, rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution that will or might in any way conflict with any of the provisions of my Executive Orders, or that will in any way interfere with or impede their achievement;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CHRIS CHRISTIE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. For the remainder of calendar year 2013, minors between fourteen and seventeen years of age shall be permitted to work as volunteers for nonprofit organizations engaged in housing construction, provided that all other provisions of N.J.S.A. 34:2-21.17d, and any other applicable law, rule, or regulation concerning the employment and protection of minors, shall remain in full force and effect.

2. The Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development is directed to take all appropriate steps to effectuate this Order.

3. No municipality, county, or any other agency or political subdivision of this State shall enact or enforce any order, rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution that will or might in any way conflict with the provisions of this Executive Order, or that will or might in any way interfere with or impede its achievement.

4. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this  
9<sup>th</sup> day of July,  
Two Thousand and Thirteen, and  
of the Independence of the  
United States, the Two Hundred  
and Thirty-Eighth.

[seal]

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Charles B. McKenna

Chief Counsel to the Governor