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Governor Chris Christie Takes Action on Pending Legislation

Monday, April 15, 2013

Tags: [Bill Action](#)

Trenton, NJ – Governor Chris Christie today took action on the following legislation:

BILLS SIGNED:

SCS for S-589/ACS for A-3090 (Beck, Sweeney/Singleton, Burzichelli, Lampitt, Watson Coleman, Wilson) – Revises certain provisions of farmland assessment law

S-2057/A-2932 (Norcross, Gill/Quijano, Ramos, Singleton, Jimenez, Watson Coleman) – “The Anti-Big Brother Act”

S-2366/A-3744 - (Lesniak, Vitale/Lampitt, Schaer, Spencer) - "New Jersey Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training Provider Demonstration Project Act"

BILLS VETOED:

S-2211/A-3312 (Sweeney, Gordon, Sarlo/Burzichelli, Singleton, DeAngelo, Benson, Coutinho, Ramos, Moriarty) – **CONDITIONAL** - The "New Jobs for New Jersey Act"

S-2425/A-3679 (Sweeney, Norcross/Egan, DeAngelo) – **ABSOLUTE** - Revises definition of "public works projects" to permit project labor agreements for more projects

S-2483/A-3794 (Cunningham, Ruiz, Madden/Wagner, Benson, Mosquera, Gusciora, Riley) - **CONDITIONAL** - Establishes the "New Jersey Workforce Development and Education Commission"

Governor Christie recommended improvements to S-2211, legislation that would provide tax credits to small businesses that hire unemployed workers. Since taking office, Governor Christie has worked diligently to rein in government spending and get New Jersey's fiscal house in order. The proposed tax credits in this legislation would cost New Jersey approximately \$2 billion dollars by 2020 without offering a revenue source or any concrete evidence that it would lead to increased employment. Therefore, in his conditional veto, the Governor is recommending that the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development undertake a review of the proposed tax credit program, as well as similar tax credit programs in New Jersey and other jurisdictions, to ensure that these tax credits would increase long-term employment and justify its \$2 billion price tag.

Governor Christie also recommended improvements to S-2483 to make the legislation more efficient, accountable and save taxpayers' money. As currently written, the bill would create three new government agencies with the goal of improving New Jersey's public education: the "New Jersey Workforce Development and Education Commission," the "Education Advisory Board," and the "Business and Workforce Advisory Board." These boards would study and issue reports on ways that New Jersey's school districts and institutions of higher education can better prepare students to meet future workforce needs. These responsibilities already fall under an existing agency, the State Employment and Training Commission (SETC). While families and businesses all across New Jersey work hard every day to save money and stretch budgets, Governor Christie believes government at all levels must do the same. Therefore, rather than create three new government bureaucracies, the Governor, through his conditional veto, is recommending that the SETC issue a report on ways to improve New Jersey's schools and public institutions of higher education to meet the demands of tomorrow's employers.

Finally, Governor Christie vetoed S-2425 because it could negatively impact efforts to rebuild and recover from Superstorm Sandy. Under current New Jersey law, project labor agreements are only permitted in public works contracts for the construction, reconstruction, demolition, or renovation of buildings at the public's expense. This proposal revises current law to authorize these agreements in other public works projects, and would significantly alter public contracting in this State at a time when the reconstruction, rebuilding, and redevelopment of public infrastructure is a priority.

Copies of the Governor's vetoes:

[S-2211/A-3312 \[pdf 30kB\]](#)

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