

August 7, 2017

SENATE BILL NO. 2214

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2214 with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill would require public institutions of higher education and proprietary institutions licensed to offer academic degrees ("proprietary institutions") to develop policies and procedures on the use and management of mandatory student fees. In addition, this bill would require public and independent institutions of higher education and proprietary institutions to provide a financial aid shopping sheet developed by the Secretary of Higher Education to each prospective student as part of the institution's financial aid offer to that student.

I support the intention of this bill to increase transparency of the costs of attending an institution of higher education, including the amount of mandatory student fees and a student's financial aid package. The information required by this bill would make it easier for students to determine the true costs associated with attending a college or university and to easily compare institutions to make informed decisions about where to attend school.

However, this bill would require public and independent institutions of higher education and proprietary institutions to utilize a shopping sheet developed by the Secretary of Higher Education. The United States Department of Education and the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau have already developed a model shopping sheet format for post-secondary schools to notify students about the costs of attendance and financial aid, which became available in the 2013-2014 school

