

SENATE BILL NO. 2158
(First Reprint)

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2158 (First Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill furthers the laudable goal of requiring individuals transitioning from a developmental center to a community center to be placed in a geographically suitable setting, and to make certain that transitioning individuals receive all appropriate services and supports while living in their new community. I share the sponsors' goals, and offer modest amendments to ensure that these placement decisions are aligned with federal standards regarding community integration, and to provide the Department of Human Services appropriate flexibility to locate residents in the community most appropriate for their needs.

While the State should make every effort to locate a transitioning resident into a nearby community setting, a one-size-fits-all approach is not always practical, and fails to consider the needs of each individual, federal requirements for community integration, and corresponding available community supports. My recommendations would also match the services outlined in the bill with those already provided by the State pursuant to each individual's carefully developed, and guardian approved, unique service plan. Lastly, my recommendations would strengthen the oversight provisions of the bill to make certain the services and supports provided for in a resident's new community will be continuously reviewed.

Accordingly, I herewith return Senate Bill No. 2158 (First Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 2, Section 1, Line 11: After "center" insert "and which meets all home and community-based services requirements and standards"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 40: After "closed" insert "where feasible"

Page 2, Section 2, Line 41: Delete "a comparable level of" and insert "all necessary"

Page 2, Section 2, Lines 42-43: Delete "that the individual received while residing in the State developmental center, as provided for in this section"

Page 3, Section 2, Line 5: After "placement" insert "which shall include such services and supports as identified by the individual's service plan pursuant to sections 10-12 of P.L. 1977, c.82 (C.30:6D-10-12)"

Page 3, Section 2, Line 5: Delete "shall" and insert "may"

Page 3, Section 2, Line 6: Delete "a comparable level of"

Page 3, Section 2, Line 16: After "placement" insert ", as applicable"

Page 3, Section 2, Line 26: Delete "a comparable level of" and insert "all necessary"

Page 3, Section 2, Line 29: Delete "which is located within 30 miles of a developmental center,"

Page 3, Section 3, Line 39: After "days" insert ", "

Page 3, Section 3, Line 39: Delete "one and two years" and insert "at least annually thereafter as part of the plan review pursuant to section 12 of P.L. 1977, c.82 (C.30:6D-12)"

Page 3, Section 3, Line 42: Delete "a comparable level of" and insert "necessary"

Page 3, Section 2, Line 46: Delete "comparable level of" and insert "necessary"

Respectfully,

/s/ Chris Christie

Governor

[seal]

Attest:

/s/ Paul B. Matey

Deputy Chief Counsel to the Governor