

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 64

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Higher Education Task Force ("Task Force") created by Executive Order No. 26 issued a report in December 2010 that, among other things, recommended that the trustees of New Jersey's public Colleges and Universities should be permitted to file Conflict of Interest forms in lieu of Financial Disclosure Statements; and

WHEREAS, in reaching this recommendation, the Task Force determined that requiring trustees to file the more complex Financial Disclosure Statements would likely have a chilling effect on a candidate's willingness to serve on the State's public College and University boards; and

WHEREAS, while this Administration is committed to securing the most qualified individuals to serve on the governing boards of our State Colleges and Universities, it also must ensure that the trustees of the State's public College and University boards are held to the highest ethical standards in order to protect the public trust; and

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. The Governor's Advisory Council on Higher Education ("Advisory Council") shall examine the bifurcated financial disclosure requirements in the higher education community and make a recommendation to the Governor as to the appropriate level and content of financial disclosure applicable to the trustees of the State's College and University boards. In undertaking its review, the Council shall consider any relevant information concerning ethics disclosures for public officials and College or University trustees, including, but not limited

to: prior Executive Orders relating to financial disclosure; the Higher Education Task Force Report; and the Conflict of Interest forms currently used by higher education trustees. The recommendation shall be delivered to the Governor in writing no later than November 15, 2011.

2. During the period in which the Council is considering this issue, and until such time as any future Executive Order is issued, members of the governing boards of the State Colleges and Universities shall be required to file the Conflict of Interest forms with the State Ethics Commission, as had been required pursuant to Executive Order No. 26, and not the Financial Disclosure Statements. For the current year, the State Ethics Commission shall have the authority to grant a reasonable extension, not to exceed thirty days, of the deadline in which to file the Conflict of Interest forms.

3. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this
9th day of May,
Two Thousand and Eleven,
and of the Independence of
the United States, the Two
Hundred and Thirty-Fifth.

/s/ Chris Christie
Governor

Attest:

/s/ Jeffrey S. Chiesa
Chief Counsel to the Governor