

November 8, 2021

**ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 2722**  
**(First Reprint)**

To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 2722 (First Reprint) without my approval.

This bill requires the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections ("DOC") to institute a 30-minute shift overlap in each of the State's 12 correctional facilities for the purpose of information dissemination between correctional police officers beginning and ending their shifts. The shift overlap program would require a correctional police officer whose shift has ended to remain at his or her post for an additional 30 minutes to report what happened during that shift to the incoming officer.

While I appreciate the need to facilitate information sharing between correctional police officers beginning and ending their shifts, particularly as we phase in the use of body worn cameras across our correctional facilities, I have been advised by DOC that the bill's overtime and related costs will exceed \$30 million annually. I am further advised that the Legislature did not fund the bill in the Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriations Act even though the bill passed on the same day as the Annual Appropriations Act in the General Assembly and just a week later in the Senate.

Rather than attempting to make mid-year changes to our agreed-upon budget structure, a more appropriate approach to dealing with funding choices such as those presented by this bill is through the annual budget process. Funding decisions should not be made in a vacuum or through an ad hoc approach that fails to consider the broader processes for allocating resources to all of the competing programs, services, interests, and obligations of the State that our taxpayers ultimately fund.

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 2722  
(First Reprint) without my approval.

[seal]

Respectfully,  
/s/ Philip D. Murphy  
Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg  
Chief Counsel to the Governor