

2C:14-2.1
LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

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LAWS OF: 2021 **CHAPTER:** 63

NJSA: 2C:14-2.1 (Establishes right of victims to be notified of county prosecutor's charging decision in sexual assault cases.)

BILL NO: S3073 (Substituted for A4887)

SPONSOR(S) Weinberg, Loretta and others

DATE INTRODUCED: 10/22/2020

COMMITTEE: **ASSEMBLY:** Women & Children

SENATE: Law & Public Safety

AMENDED DURING PASSAGE: Yes

DATE OF PASSAGE: **ASSEMBLY:** 3/1/2021

SENATE: 12/17/2020

DATE OF APPROVAL: 4/19/2021

FOLLOWING ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:

FINAL TEXT OF BILL (First Reprint enacted) Yes

S3073

INTRODUCED BILL (INCLUDES SPONSOR'S STATEMENT): Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: Yes

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

A4887

INTRODUCED BILL (INCLUDES SPONSOR'S STATEMENT): Yes

COMMITTEE STATEMENT: **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

SENATE: No

(Audio archived recordings of the committee meetings, corresponding to the date of the committee statement, *may possibly* be found at www.njleg.state.nj.us)

FLOOR AMENDMENT STATEMENT: No

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE: No

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING:

Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

To check for circulating copies, contact New Jersey State Government Publications at the State Library (609) 278-2640 ext.103 or <mailto:refdesk@njstatelib.org>

REPORTS:

No

HEARINGS:

No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:

Yes

'7 new laws boost protection for sexual assault victims in NJ', Associated Press State Wire: New Jersey (online), 19 Apr 2021

RH/CL

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 63, approved April 19, 2021
Senate, No. 3073 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT concerning certain rights of sexual assault victims and
2 amending P.L.2003, c.137.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2003, c.137 (C.2C:14-2.1) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 1. a. Every victim of sexual assault shall have the right to be
10 notified of the prosecuting authority's decision to file, or decline to
11 file, criminal charges pursuant to N.J.S.2C:14-2.

12 b. A prosecuting authority investigating an allegation of sexual
13 assault shall:

14 (1) advise the victim of the right to be notified of the prosecuting
15 authority's decision to file, or decline to file, criminal charges in the
16 case;

17 (2) ask the victim whether the victim would like to exercise this
18 right, and, if so,¹ obtain the victim's written consent to be, or not to be,
19 notified of the prosecuting authority's charging decision;

20 (3) if the victim requests to be notified, provide that notification
21 via the victim's preferred method including, but not limited to:

22 (a) an in-person meeting;

23 (b) telephone call or text message; or

24 (c) video conference.

25 c. The prosecuting authority shall ¹make a good faith effort to¹
26 obtain written acknowledgement of the charging decision from a
27 victim who has requested notification pursuant to ¹paragraphs (2) and
28 (3) of¹ subsection b. of this section prior to notifying the alleged
29 perpetrator of the sexual assault of the charging decision ¹, unless the
30 victim is unavailable; the victim declines to provide the
31 acknowledgement; or the prosecutor is unable to locate the victim
32 following a good faith effort to do so, in which case the prosecutor
33 shall document the good faith effort made and the basis for failure to
34 obtain the acknowledgement¹.

35 d. ¹A victim shall not publicly disclose the charging decision until
36 the prosecuting authority has provided written notification of the
37 decision to the alleged perpetrator. Written notification may be made
38 via email.

39 e.¹ Whenever there is a prosecution for a violation of
40 [N.J.S.A.2C:14-2] N.J.S.2C:14-2, the victim of the sexual assault shall
41 be provided an opportunity to consult with the prosecuting authority
42 prior to the conclusion of any plea negotiations.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined **thus** is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate SLP committee amendments adopted December 10, 2020.

S3073 [1R]

2

1 Nothing contained herein shall be construed to alter or limit the
2 authority or discretion of the prosecutor to enter into any plea
3 agreement which the prosecutor deems appropriate.

4 (cf: P.L.2003, c.137, s.1)

5

6 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

7

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9

10

11 _____
12 Establishes right of victims to be notified of county prosecutor's
charging decision in sexual assault cases.

SENATE, No. 3073

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 22, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator LORETTA WEINBERG

District 37 (Bergen)

Senator KRISTIN M. CORRADO

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Pou and Gill

SYNOPSIS

Establishes right of victims to be notified of county prosecutor's charging decision in sexual assault cases.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/10/2020)

S3073 WEINBERG, CORRADO

2

1 AN ACT concerning certain rights of sexual assault victims and
2 amending P.L.2003, c.137.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2003, c.137 (C.2C:14-2.1) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. Every victim of sexual assault shall have the right to be
10 notified of the prosecuting authority's decision to file, or decline to
11 file, criminal charges pursuant to N.J.S.2C:14-2.

12 b. A prosecuting authority investigating an allegation of sexual
13 assault shall:

14 (1) advise the victim of the right to be notified of the
15 prosecuting authority's decision to file, or decline to file, criminal
16 charges in the case;

17 (2) obtain the victim's written consent to be, or not to be,
18 notified of the prosecuting authority's charging decision;

19 (3) if the victim requests to be notified, provide that notification
20 via the victim's preferred method including, but not limited to:

21 (a) an in-person meeting;

22 (b) telephone call or text message; or

23 (c) video conference.

24 c. The prosecuting authority shall obtain written
25 acknowledgement of the charging decision from a victim who has
26 requested notification pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection b. of
27 this section prior to notifying the alleged perpetrator of the sexual
28 assault of the charging decision.

29 d. Whenever there is a prosecution for a violation of
30 [N.J.S.A.2C:14-2] N.J.S.2C:14-2, the victim of the sexual assault
31 shall be provided an opportunity to consult with the prosecuting
32 authority prior to the conclusion of any plea negotiations.

33 Nothing contained herein shall be construed to alter or limit the
34 authority or discretion of the prosecutor to enter into any plea
35 agreement which the prosecutor deems appropriate.

36 (cf: P.L.2003, c.137, s.1)

37

38 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

39

40

41

STATEMENT

42

43 This bill establishes the right of sexual assault victims to be
44 notified of the county prosecutor's decision on whether to file
45 charges in the case.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

S3073 WEINBERG, CORRADO

3

1 The bill also requires county prosecutors to notify sexual assault
2 victims of this right and obtain the consent of the victim to be
3 notified or not to be notified. If the victim requests to be notified,
4 the county prosecutor is to provide the notification via an in-person
5 meeting, telephone call or text message, or video conference,
6 whichever is the victim's preferred method.

7 The bill further requires the county prosecutor to obtain the
8 victim's written acknowledgement that the victim was notified of
9 the charging decision prior to notifying the alleged perpetrator of
10 the sexual assault of the decision.

ASSEMBLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3073

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2021

The Assembly Women and Children Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3073 (1R).

This bill establishes the right of sexual assault victims to be notified of the county prosecutor's decision on whether to file charges in the case.

The bill also requires county prosecutors to notify a sexual assault victim of this right, ask whether the victim wishes to exercise this right and, if so, obtain the victim's written consent concerning whether or not to be notified of the decision. If the victim requests notification of the charging decision, the county prosecutor is to provide the notification via an in-person meeting, telephone call or text message, or video conference, whichever is the victim's preferred method.

The bill further requires the county prosecutor to make a good faith effort to obtain the victim's written acknowledgement of the request to be notified of the charging decision prior to notifying the alleged perpetrator of the sexual assault of the decision. However, the bill provides an exception to this requirement if the victim is unavailable, declines to provide the acknowledgement, or the prosecutor is unable to locate the victim after a good faith attempt to do so. If the prosecutor is unable to locate the victim, the bill requires that the prosecutor document the good faith effort taken to locate the victim and the reasons for failing to obtain the acknowledgement.

Finally, the bill prohibits a victim from publicly disclosing the prosecutor's charging decision until the prosecuting authority has notified the alleged perpetrator in writing. Such written notification may be made by email.

Senate Bill No. 3073(1R), sponsored by Senators Weinberg and Corrado, was reported with committee amendments by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on December 10, 2020.

As reported by the committee, Senate Bill No. 3073 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4887 which was reported by the committee on this date.

SENATE LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3073

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 11, 2020

The Senate Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 3073.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill establishes the right of sexual assault victims to be notified of the county prosecutor's decision on whether to file charges in a sexual assault case.

To implement this provision, the bill requires county prosecutors to notify sexual assault victims of the right to be informed of the charging decision, ask whether they wish to exercise this right and, if so, obtain the victim's written consent concerning whether or not to be notified of the decision. If the victim requests to be notified via written acknowledgment, the county prosecutor is to provide the notification via an in-person meeting, telephone call or text message, or video conference, whichever is the victim's preferred method.

The amended bill further requires the county prosecutor to make a good faith effort to obtain the victim's written acknowledgement of the request to be notified of the charging decision prior to notifying the alleged perpetrator of the sexual assault of the decision. There is an exception if the victim is unavailable, the victim declines to provide the acknowledgement, or the prosecutor, despite a good faith effort, was not able to locate the victim. If the prosecutor is unable to locate the victim, the bill requires the prosecutor to document the good faith effort taken to locate the victim and the basis for failing to obtain the acknowledgement.

The amended bill prohibits a victim from publicly disclosing the charging decision until the prosecuting authority has notified the alleged perpetrator in writing, such as by email.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- 1) require the county prosecutor to make a good faith effort to obtain the victim's written acknowledgement of the request to be notified of the charging decision prior to notifying the alleged perpetrator of the sexual assault of the decision, unless the victim is

unavailable, the victim declines to provide the acknowledgement, or the prosecutor, despite a good faith effort, was not able to locate the victim;

2) if the victim can't be located, require the prosecutor to document the good faith effort taken to locate the victim and the basis for failing to obtain the acknowledgement; and

3) prohibit a victim from publicly disclosing the charging decision until the prosecuting authority has notified the alleged perpetrator in writing, such as by email.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4887

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 26, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman MILA M. JASEY

District 27 (Essex and Morris)

Assemblywoman BRITNEE N. TIMBERLAKE

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

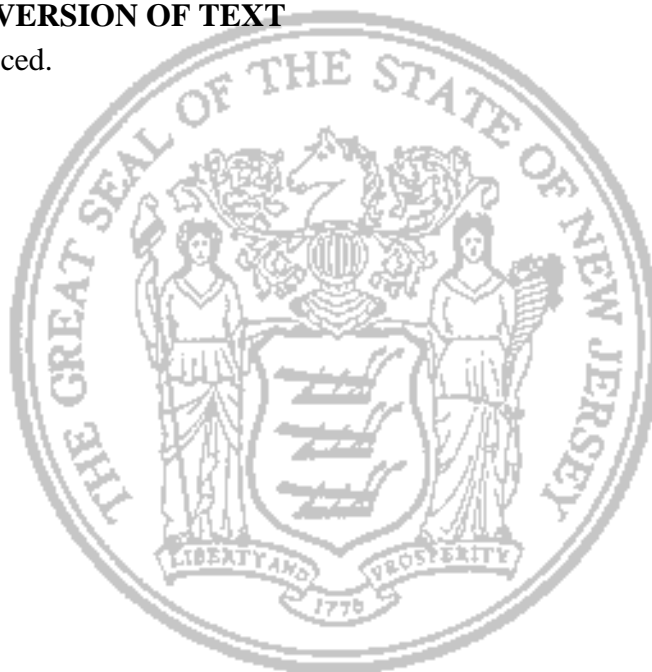
**Assemblywoman McKnight, Assemblymen Johnson, Zwicker and
Assemblywoman Speight**

SYNOPSIS

Establishes right of victims to be notified of county prosecutor's charging decision in sexual assault cases.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 11/5/2020)

1 AN ACT concerning certain rights of sexual assault victims and
2 amending P.L.2003, c.137.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2003, c.137 (C.2C:14-2.1) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1 a. Every victim of sexual assault shall have the right to be
10 notified of the prosecuting authority's decision to file, or decline to
11 file, criminal charges pursuant to N.J.S.2C:14-2.

12 b. A prosecuting authority investigating an allegation of sexual
13 assault shall:

14 (1) advise the victim of the right to be notified of the
15 prosecuting authority's decision to file, or decline to file, criminal
16 charges in the case;

17 (2) obtain the victim's written consent to be, or not to be,
18 notified of the prosecuting authority's charging decision;

19 (3) if the victim requests to be notified, provide that notification
20 via the victim's preferred method including, but not limited to:

21 (a) an in-person meeting;

22 (b) telephone call or text message; or

23 (c) video conference.

24 c. The prosecuting authority shall obtain written
25 acknowledgement of the charging decision from a victim who has
26 requested notification pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection b. of
27 this section prior to notifying the alleged perpetrator of the sexual
28 assault of the charging decision.

29 d. Whenever there is a prosecution for a violation of
30 [N.J.S.A.2C:14-2] N.J.S.2C:14-2, the victim of the sexual assault
31 shall be provided an opportunity to consult with the prosecuting
32 authority prior to the conclusion of any plea negotiations.

33 Nothing contained herein shall be construed to alter or limit the
34 authority or discretion of the prosecutor to enter into any plea
35 agreement which the prosecutor deems appropriate.

36 (cf: P. L.2003, c.137, s.1)

37

38 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

39

40

41

STATEMENT

42

43 This bill establishes the right of sexual assault victims to be
44 notified of the county prosecutor's decision on whether to file
45 charges in the case.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 The bill also requires county prosecutors to notify sexual assault
2 victims of this right and obtain the consent of the victim to be
3 notified or not to be notified. If the victim requests to be notified,
4 the county prosecutor is to provide the notification via an in-person
5 meeting, telephone call or text message, or video conference,
6 whichever is the victim's preferred method.

7 The bill further requires the county prosecutor to obtain the
8 victim's written acknowledgement that the victim was notified of
9 the charging decision prior to notifying the alleged perpetrator of
10 the sexual assault of the decision.

ASSEMBLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 4887

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 23, 2021

The Assembly Women and Children Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4887.

As amended and reported by the committee, this bill establishes the right of sexual assault victims to be notified of the county prosecutor's decision on whether to file charges in the case.

The bill also requires county prosecutors to notify a sexual assault victim of this right, ask whether the victim wishes to exercise this right and, if so, obtain the victim's written consent concerning whether or not to be notified of the decision. If the victim requests notification of the charging decision, the county prosecutor is to provide the notification via an in-person meeting, telephone call or text message, or video conference, whichever is the victim's preferred method.

The bill further requires the county prosecutor to make a good faith effort to obtain the victim's written acknowledgement of the request to be notified of the charging decision prior to notifying the alleged perpetrator of the sexual assault of the decision. However, the bill provides an exception to this requirement if the victim is unavailable, declines to provide the acknowledgement, or the prosecutor is unable to locate the victim after a good faith attempt to do so. If the prosecutor is unable to locate the victim, the bill requires that the prosecutor document the good faith effort taken to locate the victim and the reasons for failing to obtain the acknowledgement.

Finally, the amended bill prohibits a victim from publicly disclosing the prosecutor's charging decision until the prosecuting authority has notified the alleged perpetrator in writing. Such written notification may be made by email.

As amended, Assembly Bill No. 4887 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3073 (1R), sponsored by Senators Weinberg and Corrado, which was reported by the Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on December 10, 2020.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- 1) require the county prosecutor to make a good faith effort to obtain the victim's written acknowledgement of the request to be notified of the charging decision prior to notifying the alleged

perpetrator of the sexual assault of the decision, unless the victim is unavailable, the victim declines to provide the acknowledgement, or the prosecutor, despite a good faith effort, was not able to locate the victim;

2) if the victim can't be located, require the prosecutor to document the good faith efforts made to locate the victim and the reasons for failing to obtain the acknowledgement; and

3) prohibit a victim from publicly disclosing the charging decision until the prosecuting authority has notified the alleged perpetrator in writing, such as by email.

As reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No.4887 is identical to Senate Bill No. 3073 (1R) which was also reported by the committee on this date.

Governor Murphy Signs Bills Strengthening How Law Enforcement Agencies in New Jersey Manage Sexual Assault Cases

04/19/2021

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today signed a series of bills strengthening how law enforcement agencies handle sexual assault cases. These bills direct law enforcement agencies to allocate additional resources to sexual assault cases, increase training for prosecutors on how to manage these cases, and change reporting structures to ensure that survivors are properly notified about their cases. As part of this package of bills, Attorney General Gurbir Grewal will also be tasked with publishing an annual report detailing the scope of sexual assault incidents statewide.

"It is imperative that we take steps to make sure that survivors in New Jersey know they can seek justice," **said Governor Murphy**. "Giving our law enforcement agencies clear directives and guidance on how to manage sexual assault cases will ensure that these cases are handled with survivors in mind. These long-overdue reforms will change how survivors interact with law enforcement agencies and provide additional information on the scope of these incidents. I am proud to sign these bills into law."

Previously, Governor Murphy signed the Sexual Assault Victim's Bill of Rights, legislation to protect survivors, and legislation to create a new commission on campus sexual assault. Attorney General Grewal also issued a directive to law enforcement in 2018 that created fourteen protocols prioritizing the needs and concerns of sexual assault victims in New Jersey and ensuring that victims are treated with respect and understanding by law enforcement in the days, weeks, and months after reporting an assault. Many of today's actions codify and expand on that 2018 directive.

Governor Murphy today signed the following legislation:

- **S3070/A4884** (Weinberg, Turner/Vainieri Huttle, McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson) Establishes "Sexual Violence Restorative Justice Pilot Program."
- **S3071/4885** (Weinberg, Ruiz/Vainieri Huttle, Lopez, Reynolds-Jackson) Requires law enforcement provide victim of sexual assault with initial incident report; provides victim with option to review initial incident report and submit corrective form.
- **S3072/A4886** – (Weinberg, Cunningham/Vainieri Huttle, Murphy, Reynolds-Jackson) Requires resources be made available to victims of sexual assault.
- **S3073/A4887** – (Weinberg, Corrado/Vainieri Huttle, Jasey, Timberlake) Establishes right of victims to be notified of county prosecutor's charging decision in sexual assault cases.
- **S3074/A4888** – (Weinberg, Greenstein/Vainieri Huttle, Lopez) Requires the Office of the Attorney General to issue an annual report concerning sexual assault cases.
- **S3075/A4889** – (Weinberg, Pou/Vainieri Huttle, Quijano, Speight) Establishes sexual violence liaison officer in Division of State Police and local police departments.
- **S3076/A4890** – (Weinberg, Gill/Vainieri Huttle, McKnight, Reynolds-Jackson) Requires sexual assault training for prosecutors.

"This legislation codifies and in some instances expands upon the important steps our office has taken in the last several years to improve the way law enforcement officers and prosecutors engage with victims of sexual assault, with the goal of ensuring that survivors' cases are handled in accordance with best practices by police and prosecutors," **said Attorney General Grewal**. "With the signing of these bills into

law, New Jersey stands as a model for improving survivor-focused case management and law enforcement training and reporting, so we can achieve justice while treating survivors of sex crimes with the respect and compassion they deserve."

"Today, New Jersey adds to its portfolio of survivor-centered, trauma-informed laws and transforms how our state responds to the needs of survivors of sexual violence," **said Patricia Teffenhart, Executive Director of the New Jersey Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NJCASA)**. "The signing of today's package of bills is a direct reflection of what kind of change is possible when we collectively center the lived experiences of survivors to inform necessary policy and practice reforms. NJCASA is thankful for the survivors, advocates, bill sponsors, and Governor Murphy who made this possible."

ent Demonstration Program."

[Copy of Statement](#)

April 19, 2021

SENATE BILL NO.2725
(First Reprint)

To the Senate:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Senate Bill No. 2725 (First Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill would make various changes to the assessment and appeals process in 1) counties operating under the Real Property Assessment Demonstration Program ("Demonstration Program"), currently, only Monmouth County; 2) counties operating under the Property Tax Assessment Reform Act ("Reform Act"), limited in statute to Gloucester County; and 3) counties that have adopted the alternative real property assessment calendar establishment pursuant to the Demonstration Program, currently, only Burlington County.

Among other changes, the bill would amend P.L.2017, c.306 to add a definition of what constitutes a "good-faith attempt to physically inspect" the interior of properties located in counties participating in the Demonstration Program and the Reform Act and add any county who has adopted the alternative assessment calendar to the list of counties subject to the requirements of the law. Under the bill, a county participating in a Demonstration Program would be permitted to conduct an interior inspection virtually, using smartphone technology and protocols adopted by the county board of taxation, at the discretion of the taxpayer. This virtual inspection option would be available for all assessment-related functions conducted in a Demonstration Program county.

With respect to appeals of property tax assessments, the bill provides that taxpayers in a Demonstration Program county are not entitled to appeal an assessment if the taxpayer has refused an assessor's request to internally inspect the property. In addition, the bill specifies that the so-called "Chapter 123 ratio"

shall not apply to taxpayer appeals in a Demonstration Program county in any tax year in which a municipal-wide reassessment or other form of district-wide assessment review occurs. The Chapter 123 ratio eliminates the burden of demonstrating that property was assessed at greater than true value and of proving the common level of assessment for all properties in the municipality.

I applaud the bill's sponsors for attempting to further clarify and streamline the tax assessment functions in those counties that have chosen to participate in the Demonstration Program or the Reform Act. These laws were enacted with the intent of modeling more cost-effective and accurate real property assessment administration. As participating counties' experiences reveal additional opportunities for streamlining and standardizing the assessment function, it is important that statutes keep pace.

While I support the reform measures contemplated in this bill, I am concerned that the bill may inappropriately single out participating counties in a manner that could create unconstitutional disparities among taxpayers based on where they live. The uniformity clause of the New Jersey Constitution requires all property to be assessed for taxation under "general laws," by "uniform rules" and "according to the same standard of value." N.J. Const. Art. 8, Sec. 1, par. 1. By mandating the automatic dismissal of an appeal whenever a taxpayer refuses a virtual inspection only in the case of those taxpayers located in a Demonstration Program county, the bill denies these taxpayers a right to relief that is available to other taxpayers. The same is true for the bill's provision narrowing applicability of the Chapter 123 ratio to exclude certain appeals in a Demonstration Program county, while leaving it in place for appeals taking place in other counties under identical circumstances.

To avoid this outcome, I am recommending revisions to apply the important reform measures proposed in the bill to all counties, or, where appropriate, to all municipalities implementing annual reassessments or compliance plans. This will ensure that the rules are uniform throughout the State while also enabling all counties and taxpayers to benefit from the bill's efficiencies.

Accordingly, I herewith return Senate Bill No. 2725 (First Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

<u>Page 2, Title, Lines 1-2:</u>	Delete "in certain counties"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 20:</u>	Delete "eighth"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 22:</u>	Delete "eight-year"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Line 38:</u>	Delete "However,"
<u>Page 2, Section 1, Lines 39-43:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 3, Section 1, Lines 1-9:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 3, Section 1, Line 10:</u>	Delete "In the case of a municipality located in a county wherein the" and insert "Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, in any municipality implementing a revaluation program approved by the Director of the Division of Taxation pursuant to P.L.1971, c.424 (C. 54:1-35.35 et seq.), district-wide reassessment program, compliance plan, or other form of municipal-wide assessment review that requires the revision of all property assessments to current market value, that is approved by the county board of taxation"
<u>Page 3, Section 1, Lines 11-12:</u>	Delete in their entirety
<u>Page 3, Section 1, Line 13:</u>	Delete "Demonstration Program," P.L.2013, c.15 (C.54:1-104),"
<u>Page 6, Section 3, Line 26:</u>	After "seq.)" insert ", district-wide reassessment program, compliance plan, or other form of municipal-wide assessment review that requires the revision of all

property assessments to current market value, that is approved by the county board of taxation pursuant to R.S.54:4-23"

- Page 6, Section 3, Lines 27-39: Delete in their entirety
- Page 6, Section 3, Line 40: Delete "Demonstration Program," P.L.2013, c.15 (C.54:1-104), at" and insert "g. At"
- Page 7, Section 3, Lines 3-5: Delete in their entirety
- Page 7, Section 3, Line 6: Delete "Demonstration Program," P.L.2013, c.15 (C.54:1-104), at" and insert "h. At"
- Page 7, Section 3, Lines 9-10: Delete "the county's online appeal system, and"
- Page 7, Section 3, Line 11: After "taxation." insert "The county board of taxation may relax the requirement of the time of the taxpayer's appeal as the needs of justice allow."
- Page 7, Section 4, Line 36: Delete "or a" and insert "district-wide reassessment program, compliance plan, or other form of municipal-wide assessment review that requires the revision of all property assessments to current market value, that is approved by the county board of taxation pursuant to R.S.54:4-23."
- Page 7, Section 4, Lines 37-47: Delete in their entirety

[seal]

Respectfully,

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor