

**GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT UPON SIGNING
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL NO. 1438
(First Reprint)**

Today I am signing Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 1438 (First Reprint), which empowers a labor union to file a complaint in court against a contractor or subcontractor for unpaid wages on behalf of workers in certain projects if the workers belong to the union or are unaffiliated with any union. The legislation amends N.J.S.A. 34:11-67.1 (P.L.2019, c.510), which I signed in January of 2020. N.J.S.A. 34:11-67.1 applies to contracts for construction, reconstruction, demolition, alteration, maintenance (including painting and decorating), or repair, other than such work on an owner-occupied residence, and requires a contractor to be responsible for debt owed to a worker that is incurred by any subcontractor for the worker's performance of labor under such a contract. Before now, N.J.S.A. 34:11-67.1 authorized the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development or a joint labor-management cooperation committee to bring a civil action on behalf of a worker who is owed unpaid wages. The bill I am signing today provides another avenue for the pursuit of actions in court on behalf of covered workers who are owed unpaid wages.

In New Jersey, we promote fairness, fight against discrimination, and work to end unfair labor practices. I am proud to stand with all of our workers, both union and non-union, as we strive to create a stronger and fairer economy and eradicate practices that disadvantage honest companies and hurt working families. The enforcement of wage and hour laws is a top priority of my Administration. It is our expectation that empowering labor unions to pursue actions in court on behalf of construction workers, whether they belong to the union or to no union at all, will inure to the benefit of all workers in this industry and their families.

Date: January 8, 2024

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Parimal Garg

Chief Counsel to the Governor