

**GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT UPON SIGNING  
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 2164  
(First Reprint)**

Today I signed Assembly Committee Substitute for Assembly Bill No. 2164 (First Reprint), which authorizes the establishment of a new "Healthy Corner Store Program" to increase the availability and sales of fresh produce and nutritious, healthful food by small food retailers in rural and urban low- and moderate-income areas. I compliment the sponsors of this bill for recognizing the need for such a program to benefit individuals, families and communities in underserved areas of the State. Increasing the availability of fresh, healthy food options throughout New Jersey is an important priority of my Administration.

As I noted last summer when signing the annual State budget law, I was, and continue to be, very pleased to have reached a comprehensive deal with my partners in the Legislature concerning the State's spending plan for Fiscal Year 2019. Our agreed-upon budget for the year ending at midnight on June 30, 2019, satisfies our shared constitutional obligations to enact a single appropriations law governing overall State spending needs for the year, as determined through the legislative process. See Article VIII, Section 2, Paragraph 2 of the New Jersey Constitution. I am particularly pleased that the Legislature's budget, as enacted, included practically all of the investments in New Jersey's future that I recommended back in March, as well as additional spending to support and sustain important legislative priorities. With this budget, we truly began the collaborative process of building a stronger and fairer New Jersey.

This particular initiative was not included in the Legislature's spending plan in June, nor is any funding for the Program included in this bill. According to the Legislative Fiscal Estimate accompanying this bill, executing the bill's various provisions would require "indeterminate" annual expenditures from the General Fund. The amount and timing of those expenditures, which would cover administrative costs as well as the costs of grants up to \$5,100 to be distributed to participating small food retailers, is subject to future appropriation. I look forward to working collaboratively with legislative leadership on the budget for the upcoming State Fiscal Year to ensure that the State's overall tax and expenditure policy is established and maintained in a coordinated manner so that we can continue to meet our obligations to the State of New Jersey and its residents now and in the future.

Date: January 31, 2019

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Matthew J. Platkin

Chief Counsel to the Governor