

**GOVERNOR'S STATEMENT UPON SIGNING  
SENATE BILL NO. 374**

Today I am pleased to sign Senate Bill No. 374, which directs the Director of the Division of Investment in the Department of the Treasury to increase opportunities for qualified minority- and women-owned financial institutions to provide brokerage and investment management services to the State. With this bill, New Jersey joins the ranks of several other states, including Maryland, California, Connecticut, Illinois, and New York, among others, that have implemented strategies to increase the diversity of the financial service providers they use.

I commend the Legislature for approving a bill that helps enhance the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of enterprises that provide brokerage and investment management services to the State and still adheres to the State's fiduciary duties and obligations to the members, retirees, and beneficiaries of the State's investment funds. We can accomplish this very important goal and remain within the bounds of financial and fiduciary prudence by asking firms to provide information that will allow the State to identify and engage with underrepresented, qualified financial institutions that provide investment management services.

A measure such as this, which encourages and supports the development of talent and participation in the financial services industry by those in diverse communities - communities that may have been historically denied such opportunities in the financial services industry - and which ensures that industry roadblocks do not preclude the State from acquiring the best available services, is consistent with our fiduciary duty to the funds and makes our investments stronger. New Jersey is an incredibly diverse state, and we all benefit through the variety of perspectives, increased creativity and heightened productivity that diversity brings. It is absolutely the right policy to enhance the financial investment services provided to the State by increasing the State's access to talented and diverse investment advisors who may bring different perspectives along with their professional skills to this arena.

Date: January 31, 2019

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Matthew J. Platkin

Chief Counsel to the Governor