

SENATE, No. 3618

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 25, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Senator STEVEN V. OROHO

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Makes supplemental appropriation of \$10 million for grants for certain lake management activities for recreation and conservation purposes.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 A SUPPLEMENT to the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations act,
2 P.L.2020, c.97.

3

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

6

7 1. In addition to the amounts appropriated under P.L.2020, c.97,
8 the annual appropriations act for Fiscal Year 2020-2021, there is
9 appropriated the following sum for the purposes specified:

10

42 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

40 Community Development and Environmental Management

43 Science and Technical Programs

GRANTS-IN-AID

| | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 06-4850 | Water Monitoring..... | \$10,000,000 |
| | Total Grants-In-Aid Appropriation, | <hr/> |
| | Stormwater Management Grants | \$10,000,000 |
| | | <hr/> |

Grants-In-Aid:

06 Stormwater Management Grants
..... (\$10,000,000)

11 The amounts hereinabove appropriated shall be used for providing
12 grants to assist qualified entities to pay the cost of development of
13 lands for the management and maintenance of lakes for recreation
14 and conservation purposes pursuant to section 2 of this act.

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16 2. a. The amounts appropriated in section 1 of this act shall be
17 used for providing grants to assist qualified entities to pay the cost
18 of development of lands for the management and maintenance of
19 lakes for recreation and conservation purposes pursuant to the
20 provisions of this section.

21 b. The department shall establish a program for the purpose of
22 providing grants with the moneys allocated pursuant to section 1 of
23 this act to assist qualified entities to pay certain costs associated
24 with the management and maintenance of lakes for recreation and
25 conservation purposes.

26 c. (1) In establishing the program required pursuant to this
27 section, the department shall develop criteria for the evaluation and
28 ranking of applications to provide priority to projects:

29 (a) submitted by qualified entities located in the Highlands
30 Region and pinelands area; and

31 (b) to improve water quality and increase recreational access
32 and use of lakes, including projects to control nutrient levels in
33 lakes in order to prevent future harmful algal blooms.

34 (2) A grant issued pursuant to this section may be used for
35 stormwater and nonpoint source pollution management activities
36 that would, as determined by the department, directly enhance,

1 improve, or protect the use of a lake for recreation and conservation
2 purposes.

3 (3) (a) An application received by the department from the
4 Greenwood Lake Commission for funding pursuant to this section
5 shall be approved by the department and shall receive a minimum
6 grant award of \$750,000. A grant awarded to the Greenwood Lake
7 Commission pursuant to this section shall be used solely for that
8 part of Greenwood Lake which lies within the State, and may be
9 utilized without matching funds from substantially similar
10 legislation by the State of New York.

11 (b) An application received by the department from the Lake
12 Hopatcong Commission for funding pursuant to this section shall be
13 approved by the department and shall receive a minimum grant
14 award of \$750,000.

15 (4) The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall develop
16 an application by which a qualified entity may apply for a grant
17 pursuant to this section, and criteria by which to rank the
18 applications received by the department. The commissioner shall
19 provide notice of the availability of funding for this program and
20 make the application available on the department's Internet website.

21 d. As used in this section:

22 "Greenwood Lake Commission" means the commission created
23 pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1999, c.402 (C.32:20A-3).

24 "Highlands Region" means the region as defined pursuant to
25 section 3 of P.L.2004, c.120 (C.13:20-3).

26 "Lake Hopatcong Commission" means the commission created
27 pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2000, c.175 (C.54:4B-3).

28 "Qualified entity" means the Greenwood Lake Commission, the
29 Lake Hopatcong Commission, or a local government unit.

30 "Pinelands area" means the pinelands area as defined pursuant to
31 section 3 of P.L.1979, c.111 (C.13:18A-3).

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33 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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38 This bill makes a one-time supplemental appropriation of \$10
39 million for Fiscal Year 2021 to the Department of Environmental
40 Protection (DEP) from the General Fund. The bill directs the DEP
41 to establish a program to use these funds for grants to assist
42 qualified entities to pay certain costs associated with the
43 management and maintenance of lakes for recreation and
44 conservation purposes.

45 The bill requires the DEP to develop criteria for the evaluation
46 and ranking of applications to provide priority to projects located in
47 the Highlands Region and pinelands area and to improve water
48 quality and increase recreational access and use of lakes, including

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1 projects to control nutrient levels in lakes in order to prevent future
2 harmful algal blooms. The bill provides priority for funding for
3 projects located in the Highlands Region and pinelands area in
4 recognition of the critical role lakes in these ecologically significant
5 locations provide in the supply of drinking water to residents
6 throughout the State, watershed protection, and for recreation and
7 conservation purposes.

8 The bill provides that a grant issued pursuant to the bill may be
9 used for stormwater and nonpoint source pollution management
10 activities, if the DEP determines that those activities would directly
11 enhance, improve, or protect the use of a lake for recreation and
12 conservation purposes. Harmful algal blooms occur when colonies
13 of microscopic algae or bacteria grow at exponential rates and
14 produce toxins harmful to humans and animals. Exposure to these
15 algal blooms can cause a range of health effects, including skin
16 rashes, allergy-like reactions, flu-like symptoms, gastroenteritis,
17 respiratory irritation and eye irritation. The issuance by the DEP of
18 “no contact” advisories or other warnings cautioning against contact
19 with the water in certain lakes due to the presence of harmful algal
20 blooms directly impacts the public’s use of lakes for recreation and
21 conservation purposes. Certain stormwater and nonpoint source
22 pollution management activities may control harmful algal blooms,
23 which would result in improvements to water quality and increase
24 recreational access to lakes.

25 The Greenwood Lake Commission, the Lake Hopatcong
26 Commission, and local government units may apply for grants
27 pursuant to the bill. The DEP would be required to approve any
28 application submitted by the Greenwood Lake Commission and the
29 Lake Hopatcong Commission, and each commission would receive
30 a minimum grant award of \$750,000.