

ASSEMBLY, No. 4115

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 2, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Giblin, Bergen, Assemblywomen Chaparro, Jaffer, Piperno, Eulner, Assemblymen Spearman, DiMaio, Assemblywoman DeFuccio, Assemblyman Scharfenberger, Assemblywomen Flynn, Reynolds-Jackson and Assemblyman DePhillips

SYNOPSIS

Requires minimum annual State appropriation of \$10 million for Public Health Priority Funding.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/8/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning Public Health Priority Funding and
2 supplementing P.L.1966, c.36.

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

6
7 1. Commencing on July 1 following the effective date of
8 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
9 and annually thereafter, there shall be appropriated from the
10 General Fund to the Department of Health a minimum amount of
11 \$10,000,000 for Public Health Priority Funding in accordance with
12 this act.

13
14 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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17 STATEMENT

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19 This bill supplements the “Public Health Priority Funding Act of
20 1977” and requires a minimum annual State appropriation of \$10
21 million for Public Health Priority Funding, thereby reinstating New
22 Jersey’s only State appropriated, unrestricted fund for local health
23 departments.

24 From 1966 to 2010, under the “State Health Aid Act” and later
25 amended as the “Public Health Priority Funding Act of 1977,” the
26 State provided local health departments with flexibility to address
27 local needs, emerging threats, and other priorities via the
28 appropriation of dedicated funds. The State eliminated Public
29 Health Priority Funding in the FY 2011 Appropriations Act,
30 undermining the ability of local health departments to operate as the
31 front line service ensuring health of the public. For context, in FY
32 2010, Public Health Priority Funding amounted to approximately 15
33 percent of the total funding for local health departments.

34 Currently, local health departments in New Jersey are funded via
35 local property taxes and State and federal funding that is designated
36 for specific purposes, such as vaccines or environmental health
37 services. The re-establishment of dedicated, Public Health Priority
38 Funding is critical to allowing local health departments to plan for
39 operational expenses and support core local public health programs.