

ASSEMBLY, No. 5654

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 22, 2023

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman ROY FREIMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO

District 20 (Union)

Senator BOB SMITH

District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

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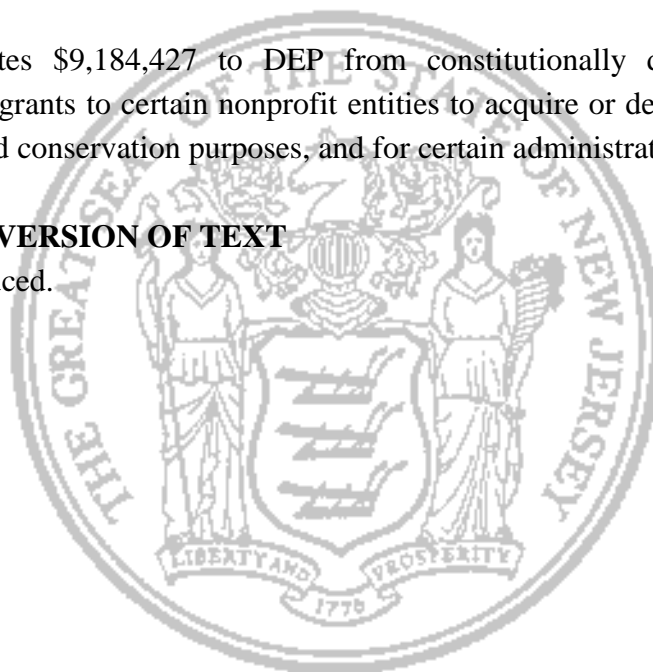
**Assemblyman Coughlin, Assemblywoman Murphy, Assemblyman
McKeon, Senators Vitale and Zwicker**

SYNOPSIS

Appropriates \$9,184,427 to DEP from constitutionally dedicated CBT revenues for grants to certain nonprofit entities to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, and for certain administrative expenses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/30/2023)

1 AN ACT appropriating \$9,184,427 from constitutionally dedicated
 2 corporation business tax revenues to provide grants to assist
 3 qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organizations to acquire or
 4 develop lands for recreation and conservation purposes, and for
 5 certain administrative expenses.

6
 7 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
 8 of New Jersey:

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 10 1. a. For the purposes of this section:

11 “Garden State Green Acres Preservation Trust Fund” means the
 12 fund established pursuant to section 19 of P.L.1999, c.152
 13 (C.13:8C-19).

14 “Green Acres bond act” means P.L.2009, c.117, P.L.2007, c.119,
 15 P.L.1995, c.204, P.L.1992, c.88, P.L.1989, c.183, P.L.1987, c.265,
 16 and P.L.1983, c.354.

17 “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund” means the fund
 18 established pursuant to section 6 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,”
 19 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48).

20 “Stewardship activity” means the same as the term is defined in
 21 section 3 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12
 22 (C.13:8C-45).

23 b. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental
 24 Protection the sum of \$8,747,073 from the dedicated corporation
 25 business tax revenues pursuant to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph
 26 6 of the State Constitution in the “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres
 27 Fund,” established pursuant to section 6 of the “Preserve New
 28 Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48), for the purpose of
 29 providing grants to assist qualifying tax exempt nonprofit
 30 organizations to acquire lands for recreation and conservation
 31 purposes pursuant to subsection c. of this section, to develop lands
 32 for recreation and conservation purposes pursuant to subsection d.
 33 of this section, and to undertake stewardship activities pursuant to
 34 subsection e. of this section.

35 c. The following projects for the acquisition of lands for
 36 recreation and conservation purposes are eligible for funding with
 37 the moneys appropriated pursuant to subsection b. of this section:

38

Nonprofit Organization	Project	County	Municipality	Approved Amount
(1) D & R Greenway Land Trust	Greenway Acq	Burlington	Beverly City Bordentown City Bordentown Twp Burlington City Burlington Twp Chesterfield Twp Cinnaminson Twp Delanco Twp Delran Twp Edgewater Park Twp Fieldsboro Boro Florence Twp	\$1,000,000

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			Hainesport Twp	
			Mansfield Twp	
			Maple Shade Twp	
			Moorestown Twp	
			Mount Holly Twp	
			Mount Laurel Twp	
			Palmyra Boro	
			Riverside Twp	
			Riverton Boro	
			Springfield Twp	
			Westampton Twp	
			Willingboro Twp	
		Camden	Audubon Boro	
			Audubon Park Boro	
			Brooklawn Boro	
			Camden City	
			Cherry Hill Twp	
			Collingswood Boro	
			Gloucester City	
			Haddon Heights Boro	
			Haddon Twp	
			Haddonfield Boro	
			Merchantville Boro	
			Mount Ephraim Boro	
			Oaklyn Boro	
			Pennsauken Twp	
			Woodlynne Boro	
		Cumberland	Deerfield Twp	
			Fairfield Twp	
			Greenwich Twp	
			Hopewell Twp	
			Stow Creek Twp	
			Upper Deerfield Twp	
		Gloucester	National Park Boro	
			West Deptford Twp	
			Westville Boro	
		Hunterdon	All municipalities	
		Mercer	All municipalities	
		Middlesex	All municipalities	
		Monmouth	All municipalities	
		Morris	All municipalities	
		Salem	Elsinboro Twp	
			Lower Alloways Creek Twp	
			Mannington Twp	
			Pennsville Twp	
		Somerset	All municipalities	
(2) Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space	Hopewell Valley Park Acq	Mercer	Hopewell Boro Hopewell Twp Pennington Boro	174,915
(3) Friends of Princeton Open Space	Millstone River Watershed	Mercer	Princeton Boro	250,000
(4) Hunterdon Land Trust	Hunterdon Open Space Plan Priority Areas	Hunterdon	All municipalities	500,000

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(5) New Jersey Conservation Foundation	Priority Area Acq	Atlantic	Buena Vista Twp Egg Harbor City Egg Harbor Twp Estell Manor City Folsom Boro Galloway Twp Hamilton Twp Hammonton Town Mullica Twp Weymouth Twp	1,000,000
		Burlington	Bass River Twp Beverly City Bordentown City Bordentown Twp Burlington City Burlington Twp Chesterfield Twp Cinnaminson Twp Delanco Twp Delran Twp Evesham Twp Fieldsboro Boro Florence Twp Mansfield Twp Medford Twp New Hanover Twp North Hanover Twp Pemberton Twp Shamong Twp Southampton Twp Springfield Twp Tabernacle Twp Washington Twp	
		Camden	Camden City Merchantville Boro Pennsauken Twp	
		Cape May	Lower Twp Middle Twp	
		Cumberland	Fairfield Twp Greenwich Twp Hopewell Twp Maurice River Twp Millville City Stow Creek Twp Upper Deerfield Twp Vineland City	
		Gloucester	Franklin Twp Logan Twp South Harrison Twp Woolwich Twp	
		Hunterdon	All municipalities	
		Mercer	East Windsor Twp Ewing Twp Hamilton Twp Hightstown Boro Hopewell Twp Lawrence Twp Trenton City Princeton Boro Robbinsville Twp West Windsor Twp	
		Middlesex	Cranberry Twp Edison Twp	

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		Monmouth	Allentown Boro Millstone Twp Upper Freehold Twp	
		Morris	All municipalities	
		Ocean	Lacey Twp Ocean Twp Plumsted Twp	
		Passaic	West Milford Twp	
		Salem	Alloway Twp Carneys Point Twp Elmer Boro Elsinboro Twp Lower Alloways Creek Twp Mannington Twp Oldmans Twp Pennsville Twp Pilesgrove Twp Pittsgrove Twp Quinton Twp Upper Pittsgrove Twp Woodstown Boro	
		Somerset	Bedminster Twp Bernards Twp Bernardsville Boro Branchburg Twp Bridgewater Twp Far Hills Boro Hillsborough Twp Montgomery Twp Peapack-Gladstone Boro Raritan Boro	
		Sussex	Andover Twp Byram Twp Frankford Twp Green Twp Hampton Twp Hopatcong Boro Sparta Twp Vernon Twp Wantage Twp	
		Union	Elizabeth City Linden City Springfield Twp Union Twp	
		Warren	Blairstown Twp Franklin Twp Frelinghuysen Twp Greenwich Twp Hardwick Twp Harmony Twp Lopatcong Twp Mansfield Twp Pohatcong Twp Washington Twp White Twp	
(6) Ridgeview Conservancy	Ridgeview Conservancy Acq	Mercer	Hopewell Boro Hopewell Twp Princeton Boro	250,000
		Somerset	Montgomery Twp	

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(7) Sourland Conservancy	True Farmstead Acq	Somerset	Montgomery Twp	285,000
(8) Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum	True Farmstead Acq	Somerset	Montgomery Twp	285,000
(9) The Nature Conservancy	Priority Area Acq	Atlantic	Estell Manor City Galloway Twp Hamilton Twp Mullica Twp	500,000
		Burlington	Bass River Twp Pemberton Boro Pemberton Twp Washington Twp Woodland Twp	
		Cape May	Cape May City Cape May Point Boro Dennis Twp Lower Twp Middle Twp West Cape May Boro	
		Cumberland	Commercial Twp Downe Twp Fairfield Twp Lawrence Twp Maurice River Twp Millville City Vineland City	
		Gloucester	Franklin Twp	
		Ocean	Barneгат Twp Eagleswood Twp Lacey Twp Little Egg Harbor Twp Ocean Twp Stafford Twp	
		Passaic	North Haledon Boro Wayne Twp	
		Salem	Pittsgrove Twp	
		Sussex	Andover Boro Andover Twp Frankford Twp Fredon Twp Green Twp Hampton Twp Hardyston Twp Lafayette Twp Montague Twp Newton Town Sandyston Twp Stillwater Twp Walpack Twp Wantage Twp	
		Warren	Allamuchy Twp Blairstown Twp Frelinghuysen Twp Hardwick Twp Hope Twp Knowlton Twp	

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(10) The Watershed Institute	Watershed Connectors	Mercer	Hopewell Boro Hopewell Twp Pennington Boro Princeton Boro	140,000
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TOTAL **\$4,384,915**

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d. The following projects for the development of lands for recreation and conservation purposes are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to subsection b. of this section:

Nonprofit Organization	Project	County	Municipality	Approved Amount
Branch Brook Park Alliance	Branch Brook Park Improvements	Essex	Newark City	\$500,000
Camp Dill Foundation	Camp Dill Improvements	Hunterdon	Clinton Twp	100,000
Deal Lake Watershed Alliance	Deal Lake Wickapecko Park Phase II	Monmouth	Ocean Twp	41,658
Essex County Parks Foundation	Turtle Back Zoo Australian Exhibit & Playground	Essex	West Orange Twp	500,000
Flat Rock Brook Nature Association	Jones Road Streamside Restoration Project Phase 2 & 3	Bergen	Englewood City	500,000
NJ Community Development Corp	Westside Park Improvements	Passaic	Paterson City	500,000
Open Space Institute Land Trust, Inc.	Westside Park Improvements	Passaic	Paterson City	500,000
Trust for Public Land	Multi Park Improvements	Essex	Newark City	500,000
Zoological Society of NJ	Turtle Back Zoo Australian Exhibit & Playground	Essex	West Orange Twp	500,000
TOTAL				\$3,641,658

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e. The following stewardship activity projects are eligible for funding with the moneys appropriated pursuant to subsection b. of this section:

Nonprofit Organization	Project	County	Municipality	Approved Amount
Friends of Princeton Open Space	Mountain Lakes Preserve Riparian Restoration	Mercer	Princeton Boro	\$124,500

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Tenafly Nature Center Association	Pfister's Pond Restoration Project	Bergen	Tenafly Boro	121,000
The Watershed Institute	Wargo Pond Restoration	Mercer	Hopewell Twp	475,000
TOTAL				\$720,500

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2 f. Any transfer of any funds, or change in project sponsor, site,
3 or type, listed in subsection c., d., or e. of this section shall require
4 the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its
5 successor.

6 g. To the extent that moneys remain available after the projects
7 listed in subsection c., d., or e. of this section are offered funding
8 pursuant thereto, any project of a qualifying tax exempt nonprofit
9 organization that previously received funding appropriated or
10 reappropriated from any Green Acres bond act, any annual
11 appropriations act, or the Garden State Green Acres Preservation
12 Trust Fund for recreation and conservation purposes shall be
13 eligible to receive additional funding, as determined by the
14 Department of Environmental Protection, subject to the approval of
15 the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor.

16 h. There is reappropriated to the Department of Environmental
17 Protection the unexpended balances, due to project withdrawals,
18 cancellations, or cost savings, of the amounts appropriated or
19 reappropriated from any Green Acres bond act, any annual
20 appropriations act, or the Garden State Green Acres Preservation
21 Trust Fund to assist qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organizations
22 to acquire or develop lands for recreation and conservation
23 purposes, for the purposes of: (1) this section; and (2) providing
24 additional funding, as determined by the Department of
25 Environmental Protection, to any project of a qualifying tax exempt
26 nonprofit organization that previously received funding
27 appropriated or reappropriated from any Green Acres bond act, any
28 annual appropriations act, or the Garden State Green Acres
29 Preservation Trust Fund for recreation and conservation purposes,
30 subject to the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or
31 its successor. Any such additional funding provided from a Green
32 Acres bond act may include administrative costs.

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34 2. There is appropriated to the Department of Environmental
35 Protection the sum of \$437,354 from dedicated corporation business
36 tax revenues pursuant to Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the
37 State Constitution in the "Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund,"
38 established pursuant to section 6 of the "Preserve New Jersey Act,"
39 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-48), for paying administrative costs
40 associated with administering the applicable provisions of
41 P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.).

1 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
2 “Preserve New Jersey Green Acres Fund,” established pursuant to
3 section 6 of the “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12
4 (C.13:8C-48), the sum of \$9,184,427 to implement the provisions of
5 this act.

6
7 4. This act shall take effect immediately.

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10 STATEMENT

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12 The bill appropriates \$9,184,427 to the Department of
13 Environmental Protection (DEP), of which \$8,747,073 is to provide
14 grants to various nonprofit entities to acquire or develop lands for
15 recreation and conservation purposes, and \$437,354 is to be used by
16 the DEP for associated administrative costs.

17 The funding in this bill is provided from constitutionally
18 dedicated corporation business tax (CBT) revenues pursuant to
19 Article VIII, Section II, paragraph 6 of the State Constitution. The
20 “Preserve New Jersey Act,” P.L.2016, c.12 (C.13:8C-43 et seq.),
21 implements the constitutional dedication of CBT revenues for open
22 space, farmland, and historic preservation. The “Preserve New
23 Jersey Green Acres Fund” was established by section 6 of the
24 “Preserve New Jersey Act.” The act provides that a certain amount
25 of the portion of dedicated CBT revenues allocated each year for
26 the Green Acres program is to be used for: the acquisition of lands
27 for open space, including Blue Acres projects, and development
28 projects on State lands administered by the DEP’s Division of Fish
29 and Wildlife and Division of Parks and Forestry; grants and loans to
30 fund local government open space acquisition and development
31 projects; and grants to nonprofit entities to acquire or develop lands
32 for recreation and conservation purposes.

33 This bill appropriates funds to be used to provide grants to
34 nonprofit entities to acquire or develop lands for recreation and
35 conservation purposes. Further, of the funding allocated for
36 acquisition and development projects by nonprofit entities, a certain
37 percentage is to be used to fund stewardship activities undertaken
38 by nonprofit entities. A “stewardship activity” is defined in the
39 “Preserve New Jersey Act” as an activity, which is beyond routine
40 operations and maintenance, undertaken to repair or restore lands
41 acquired or developed for recreation and conservation purposes for
42 the purpose of enhancing or protecting those lands for recreation
43 and conservation purposes.

44 Of the amount appropriated by the bill to provide grants to
45 various nonprofit entities: \$4,384,915 is allocated for 10
46 acquisition projects; \$3,641,658 is allocated for nine park
47 development projects; and \$720,500 is allocated for three
48 stewardship activity projects. In addition, the bill appropriates

1 \$437,354 to the DEP for the purposes of paying administrative costs
2 associated with administering the applicable provisions of the
3 “Preserve New Jersey Act.”

4 The projects listed in the bill have been approved by the DEP
5 and the Garden State Preservation Trust.

6 The bill also would allow the DEP to re-distribute certain other
7 moneys, which have been returned to the department due to project
8 withdrawals, cancellations, or cost savings, for the purpose of
9 providing additional funding, for recreation and conservation
10 purposes, to previously approved and funded projects of nonprofit
11 entities, subject to the approval of the Joint Budget Oversight
12 Committee. This additional funding, if provided from a Green
13 Acres bond act, may include administrative costs.