

[First Reprint]

**SENATE, No. 2857**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**220th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED JUNE 14, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator VIN GOPAL**

**District 11 (Monmouth)**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

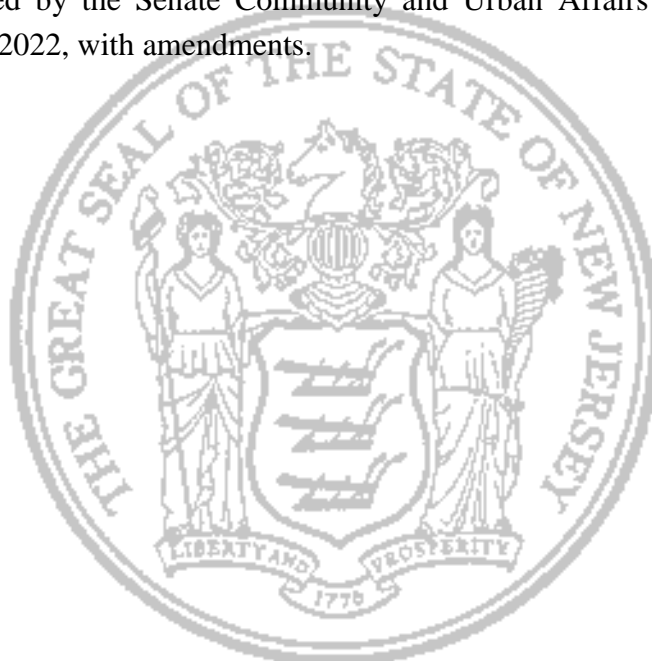
**Senator Singleton**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes “Sustainable New Jersey Fund” in DCA to support certain sustainability initiatives; appropriates \$1 million.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate Community and Urban Affairs Committee on December 1, 2022, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/20/2023)**

1 AN ACT concerning support for sustainability initiatives by  
2 municipalities, school districts, and other State and local  
3 government contracting agencies, supplementing Title 52 of the  
4 Revised Statutes, and making an appropriation.

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

8  
9 1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

10 a. Sustainability training and support programs offered to local  
11 governments, school districts, and other governmental entities have  
12 been shown to result in significant cost savings to those who adopt  
13 sustainability initiatives.

14 b. New Jersey institutions of higher education have  
15 successfully partnered with New Jersey nonprofit organizations to  
16 develop and offer support and assistance to local governments,  
17 school districts, and other governmental entities.

18 c. Encouraging New Jersey municipalities, schools, school  
19 districts, and other State and local government contracting agencies  
20 to function in a sustainable, environmentally responsible manner  
21 and to use resources efficiently is vital to ensure a sustainable future  
22 of New Jersey and its residents.

23 d. It is in the State's interest to ensure the general welfare of  
24 the State and its residents by encouraging, and provide a stable  
25 source of funding for, the development of such partnerships and  
26 programs.

27  
28 2. a. There is established in the Department of Community  
29 Affairs a special non-lapsing fund to be known as the "Sustainable  
30 New Jersey Fund." The department shall annually distribute  
31 moneys in the fund to a public institution of higher education that  
32 has an existing contractual relationship with a qualified nonprofit  
33 organization that offers certifications and grants to municipalities  
34 and public schools across the State in support of efforts to realize  
35 environmental, economic, and social sustainability. A public  
36 institution of higher education that receives moneys from the  
37 Sustainable New Jersey Fund shall distribute such funds to a  
38 qualified nonprofit organization to support the provision of such  
39 certification and grants.

40 b. As used in P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
41 Legislature as this bill) "qualified nonprofit organization" means a  
42 nonprofit organization that:

43 (1) is organized under, and governed by, the laws of the State;

44 (2) has a board of trustees with representatives from State  
45 agencies and formal representation from local government officials;

**EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

**Matter underlined thus is new matter.**

**Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:**

**<sup>1</sup>Senate SCU committee amendments adopted December 1, 2022.**

1 (3) has a formal contractual affiliation with a public institution  
2 of higher education for the purpose of providing sustainability  
3 research, consulting, and program support to entities contracting  
4 with the affiliated public institution of higher education for such  
5 service or support, and has at least five years' of experience  
6 operating under similar agreements; and  
7 (4) has experience collaborating with State agencies, including  
8 at least five years' of experience successfully implementing a total  
9 minimum of \$5 million of State contracts and grant awards through  
10 a contractually affiliated public institution of higher education.

11  
12 3. The Sustainable New Jersey Fund shall be annually credited  
13 with money appropriated by the Legislature, which moneys shall be  
14 disbursed to the public institution of higher education that is  
15 partnered with a qualified nonprofit organization. The qualified  
16 nonprofit organization that receives the funds from the public  
17 institution of higher education pursuant to the provisions of P.L. ,  
18 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall  
19 **not be required to comply with the public bidding requirements]**  
20 **assume the status of that public institution for purposes of**  
21 **compliance with the provisions**<sup>1</sup> of the "Local Public Contracts  
22 Law," P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-1 et seq.) or the "Public School  
23 Contracts Law," N.J.S.18A:18A-1 et seq. when contracting with a  
24 municipality, school, school district, and other State or local  
25 government contracting agency related to any services, certification  
26 processes, support initiatives, or grants of the qualified nonprofit  
27 organization for efforts to realize environmental, economic, and  
28 social sustainability.

29  
30 4. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
31 "Sustainable New Jersey Fund," established pursuant to section 2 of  
32 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),  
33 the sum of \$1 million for the purpose of enabling continued support  
34 to municipalities and public schools in their efforts to create a more  
35 sustainable New Jersey.

36  
37 5. This act shall take effect 30 days following the date of  
38 enactment, but the Commissioner of Community Affairs may take  
39 any anticipatory action in advance of that date as may be necessary  
40 to implement the provisions of this act.