

[Second Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2857

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 14, 2022

Sponsored by:

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Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

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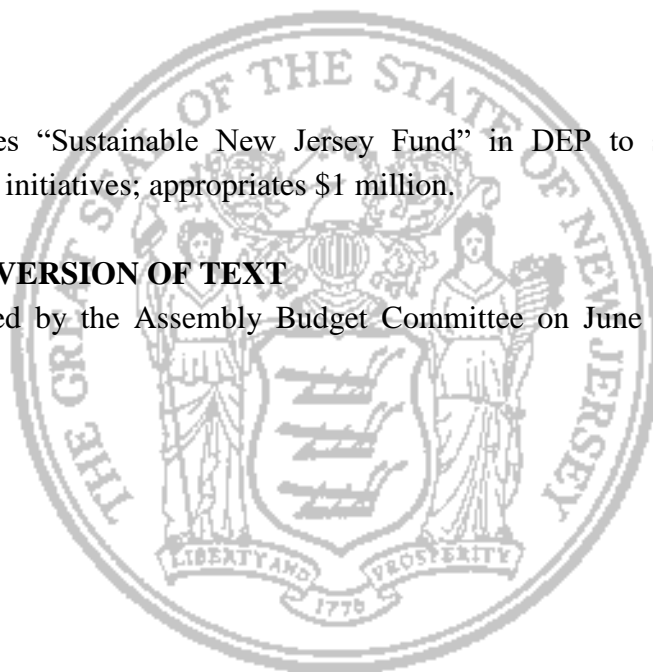
Senator Singleton, Assemblyman Clifton, Assemblywomen Reynolds-Jackson, Lampitt and Murphy

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Assembly Budget Committee on June 27, 2023, with amendments.



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

1 AN ACT concerning support for sustainability initiatives by
2 municipalities, school districts, and other State and local
3 government contracting agencies, supplementing Title ²[52] 13²
4 of the 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 ²[Community
29 Affairs] Environmental Protection² a special non-lapsing fund to be
30 known as the "Sustainable New Jersey Fund." The department shall
31 annually distribute moneys in the fund to a public institution of higher
32 education that has an existing contractual relationship with a qualified
33 nonprofit organization that offers certifications and grants to
34 municipalities and public schools across the State in support of efforts
35 to realize 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 qualified
38 nonprofit organization to support the provision of such certification
39 and grants.

40 b. As used in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
41 as this bill) "qualified nonprofit organization" means a nonprofit
42 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 agencies
45 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:

¹Senate SCU committee amendments adopted December 1, 2022.

²Assembly ABU committee amendments adopted June 27, 2023.

1 (3) has a formal contractual affiliation with a public institution of
2 higher education for the purpose of providing sustainability research,
3 consulting, and program support to entities contracting with the
4 affiliated public institution of higher education for such service or
5 support, and has at least five years' of experience operating under
6 similar agreements; and

7 (4) has experience collaborating with State agencies, including at
8 least five years' of experience successfully implementing a total
9 minimum of \$5 million of State contracts and grant awards through a
10 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 ¹**[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 provisions¹ 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 ²**[Community Affairs]**
39 Environmental Protection² may take any anticipatory action in
40 advance of that date as may be necessary to implement the provisions
41 of this act.