# ASSEMBLY, No. 1403

# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**
**Assemblywoman SHAMA A. HAIDER**
**District 37 (Bergen)**
**Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY**
**District 18 (Middlesex)**
**Assemblyman REGINALD W. ATKINS**
**District 20 (Union)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**
**Assemblyman Sampson**

**SYNOPSIS**

"Penny's Law"; requires DEP to develop beach accessibility guidelines for persons with disabilities.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Environment, Natural Resources, and Solid Waste Committee with technical review.

**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/9/2024)**

**AN ACT** concerning guidelines for beach accessibility for persons with disabilities, designated as Penny's Law, and supplementing Title 13 of the Revised Statutes.

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

1. a. Within one year after the effective date of this act, the Department of Environmental Protection shall, in consultation with the Department of Human Services, develop guidelines for specific facilities and accommodations necessary to provide accessibility to beaches for persons with disabilities. The guidelines shall include recommendations for ramps, restrooms, showers, boardwalks, surf chairs, parking, and any other facilities deemed appropriate.

b. When developing the guidelines pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the Department of Environmental Protection shall:

(1) consult with persons and organizations that have knowledge and experience in assisting individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. The Department of Human Services shall establish a process by which such persons and organizations will be informed of their ability to provide input and recommendations in association with the development of beach accessibility guidelines under this section; and

(2) consider, as appropriate, the guidelines for beach access routes and facilities on federal lands, which have been adopted by the United States Access Board.

c. Upon adoption of the guidelines pursuant to subsection a. of this section, the Department of Environmental Protection shall publish the guidelines on its Internet website and distribute the guidelines to every county and municipality with publicly-owned beach or waterfront property.

d. The Department of Environmental Protection shall design a uniform promotional label or sign that may be displayed by a State or local government at any beach that complies with the guidelines adopted pursuant to subsection a. of this section.

2. This act shall take effect immediately.