

SENATE, No. 4818

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 15, 2026

Sponsored by:

Senator JOHN J. BURZICHELLI

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

SYNOPSIS

Requires Department of Agriculture to develop guidance on shellfish aquaculture agritourism.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning shellfish aquaculture agritourism and
2 supplementing Title 4 of the Revised Statutes.

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

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7 1. a. The Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the
8 Aquaculture Advisory Council, the Office of Aquaculture
9 Coordination, the Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring within the
10 Department of Environmental Protection, and any other appropriate
11 State office or agency, shall develop and provide guidance on
12 shellfish aquaculture agritourism practices for use by aquatic
13 farmers and shellfish dealers. The guidance required pursuant to
14 this subsection shall comply with the applicable federal, State, and
15 local regulations concerning aquaculture and agritourism.

16 b. The agritourism guidance issued by the department and
17 council, pursuant to subsection a. of section 1 of this act, shall
18 provide information on resources which support the shellfish
19 aquaculture agritourism industry, which may include, but not be
20 limited to:

- 21 (1) meeting applicable farming and food safety requirements;
22 (2) diversifying species grown;
23 (3) conforming with handling requirements at harvest;
24 (4) providing in-person experiences of shellfish farming;
25 (5) improving access to agritourism markets;
26 (6) developing the aquaculture workforce;
27 (7) financing aquaculture agritourism; and
28 (8) navigating the federal, State, and local laws, rules, and
29 regulations that impact the agritourism and aquaculture industries in
30 New Jersey.

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32 2. The Department of Agriculture shall publish any guidance
33 developed pursuant to section 1 of this act on its Internet website
34 and shall ensure that a copy of the written guidance is annually sent
35 by electronic mail to each holder of a shellfish dealer certification
36 or an aquatic farmer license under the “New Jersey Aquaculture
37 Development Act,” P.L.1997, c.236 (C.4:27-1 et al.).

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39 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
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42 STATEMENT

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44 This bill would direct the Department of Agriculture
45 (department), in consultation with the Aquaculture Advisory
46 Council (council), the Office of Aquaculture Coordination, the
47 Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring within the Department of
48 Environmental Protection, and any other appropriate State office or

1 agency, to develop and disseminate guidance on shellfish
2 aquaculture agritourism. The guidance would be required to be
3 compliant with federal, State, and local regulations on both
4 aquaculture and agritourism. In formulating agritourism guidance,
5 the department and council would be directed to provide
6 information on resources which support the shellfish aquaculture
7 agritourism industry in meeting farm and food safety requirements,
8 diversifying species grown, conforming with handling requirements
9 at harvest, providing in-person experiences of shellfish farming,
10 accessing agritourism markets, developing the aquaculture
11 workforce, financing aquaculture agritourism, and navigating the
12 federal, State, and local laws, rules, and regulations that impact the
13 agritourism and aquaculture industries in New Jersey. The
14 department would be directed to publish any guidance on its
15 Internet website, and ensure that a copy of the written guidance is
16 annually sent by electronic mail to each holder of an aquatic farmer
17 license or shellfish dealer certification.