

SENATE, No. 4819

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 15, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator JOHN J. BURZICHELLI
District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

SYNOPSIS

Expands and changes membership of Aquaculture Advisory Council.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT changing membership of the Aquaculture Advisory
2 Council and amending P.L.1997, c.236.

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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. Section 5 of P.L.1997, c.236 (C.4:27-5) is amended to read
8 as follows:

9 5. a. There is established in the Department of Agriculture an
10 Aquaculture Advisory Council which shall consist of **【13】** 18 total
11 members, including 15 voting and 【two】 three non-voting members

12 **【.** The voting members shall include the Secretary of Agriculture,
13 who shall serve as chairman, the Commissioner of Environmental
14 Protection, the Commissioner of Commerce and Economic
15 Development, the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services, the
16 director of the Aquaculture Technology Transfer Center, the
17 director of the Aquaculture Training and Information Center, the
18 executive director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment
19 Station, or their designees, who shall serve ex officio, and six
20 citizens of the State, to be appointed as follows: two by the
21 President of the Senate, one of whom shall be a representative from
22 recognized aquaculture organizations or an operator of an
23 aquaculture farm and one of whom shall be a representative of the
24 seafood industry; two by the Speaker of the General Assembly, one
25 of whom shall be a representative of recognized aquaculture
26 organizations or an operator of an aquaculture farm and one of
27 whom shall be a representative of farmers; and two by the Governor
28 from the public at large. The chairman of the Marine Fisheries
29 Council and the chairman of the Fish and Game Council shall serve
30 ex officio and as non-voting members.**】**, as follows:

31 (1) seven members, or their designees, shall serve as ex-officio
32 voting members, including:

33 (a) the Secretary of Agriculture;

34 (b) the Assistant Commissioner of Fish and Wildlife;

35 (c) the executive director of the Business Action Center in the
36 Department of State;

37 (d) the Commissioner of Health;

38 (e) the director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment
39 Station;

40 (f) the executive director of the New Jersey Sea Grant
41 Extension Service; and

42 (g) a member of the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture,
43 chosen by the New Jersey State Board of Agriculture;

44 (2) three members, or their designees, shall serve as ex-officio
45 non-voting members, including:

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.

- 1 (a) the project coordinator of the Shellfish Project in the
2 Department of Health;
- 3 (b) the assistant commissioner of Water- Resource Management
4 in the Department of Environmental Protection; and
- 5 (c) the assistant commissioner of watershed and land
6 management in the Department of Environmental Protection; and
- 7 (3) eight members, who are residents of the State, shall serve as
8 voting public members, including:
- 9 (a) three representatives of the aquaculture industry appointed
10 by the President of the Senate, who shall include: one clam farmer,
11 one oyster farmer, and one representative of nursery and hatchery
12 interests or any other aquaculture interest;
- 13 (b) three representatives of the aquaculture industry appointed
14 by the Speaker of the General Assembly, who shall include: one
15 clam farmer, one oyster farmer, and one representative of nursery
16 and hatchery interests or any other aquaculture interest; and
- 17 (c) two members appointed by the Governor, who shall include:
18 one member of the public at large, and one member of an academic
19 institution with knowledge, expertise, and experience in aquaculture
20 industry operations.
- 21 b. The term of office of each public member shall be three
22 years【; except that of the first members to be appointed, one
23 appointed by the Governor, one by the President of the Senate and
24 one by the Speaker of the General Assembly shall be appointed for
25 a term of two years, and the remaining two members shall be
26 appointed for a term of three years】. Each member shall serve until
27 a successor has been appointed and qualified, and vacancies shall be
28 filled in the same manner as the original appointments for the
29 remainder of the unexpired term. A member is eligible for
30 reappointment to the council.
- 31 c. A majority of the membership of the advisory council shall
32 constitute a quorum for the transaction of advisory council business.
- 33 d. Members of the advisory council shall serve without
34 compensation, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for expenses
35 incurred in attendance at meetings to the extent funds are available
36 therefor.
- 37 e. The advisory council shall act in an advisory capacity to the
38 department and other State agencies on aquaculture matters. The
39 advisory council shall assist the various departments in the
40 evaluation of proposed and existing rules and regulations and the
41 development of policies mandated by provisions of **【this act】**
42 P.L.1997, c.236 (C.4:27-1 et al.). The advisory council shall seek
43 to ensure that aquaculture market development activities and
44 policies reflect the changing needs and characteristics of the
45 aquaculture industry. The advisory council shall review the
46 Aquaculture Development Plan and update the plan as appropriate,
47 but no less frequently than every five years.
48 (cf: P.L.1997, c.236, s.5)

1 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill changes the membership of the Aquaculture Advisory
7 Council (council). Under the bill, the council's membership is
8 increased from 13 to 18 total members, including 15 voting and
9 three non-voting members. The bill stipulates that seven members,
10 or their designees, shall serve as ex-officio voting members, three
11 members, or their designees, shall serve as ex-officio non-voting
12 members, and eight members, who are residents of the State and
13 with experience in the aquaculture industry, shall serve as voting
14 public members. The bill stipulates that the term of office for each
15 public member would be three years.